

Florida WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1958

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS

NATURE'S
CHRISTMAS GIFT

HOG WILD

SAVANNA WORKSHOP



REGULATIONS FOR 1958-59 HUNTING SEASON

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING GAME BIRDS AND GAME ANIMALS

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING MIGRATORY BIRDS

DISTRICT	DEER	TURKEY	QUAIL	SQUIRREL	RAIL AND GALLINULE (Marsh Hen)	DOVE	WOODCOCK	WATERFOWL Duck Geese Coot	SNIPES
Day's Bag	1	2	10	10 GRAY 2 Fox	15 Sora Rail—25	10	4	4 2 10	8
Season's Bag	2	3							
1st District	Nov. 15 to Jan. 4. Hunting permitted every day EXCEPT Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto, Polk, South of St. Rd. 60, and Hillsborough South of U. S. 92 CLOSED.	Nov. 15 to Jan. 18. Hunting permitted every day. Special season Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Polk, South of St. Rd. 60, and Hillsborough South of U. S. 92. Nov. 15 to Nov. 20. Pinellas County CLOSED.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 13 to Nov. 16. Hunting permitted every day.	Oct. 4 to Nov. 2 AND Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. Hunting permitted every day. Afternoon shooting only.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 22 to Jan. 15. Hunting permitted every day.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.
2nd District	Nov. 15 to Jan. 4. First 6 days open. Dec. 25 to Jan. 4 open. Mon., Tues., & Fri. CLOSED AT ALL OTHER TIMES.* Special Season, Gilchrist County Nov. 15 to Dec. 7. First 6 days open. Mon., Tues., & Fri. CLOSED AT ALL OTHER TIMES. That portion of Columbia, South of St. Rd. 18 and East of U. S. 441 CLOSED.	Nov. 15 to Jan. 18. First 6 days open. Dec. 25 to Jan. 4 open. Mon., Tues., & Fri. CLOSED AT ALL OTHER TIMES.* That portion of Columbia, South of St. Rd. 18 and East of U. S. 441 CLOSED.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 13 to Nov. 16. Hunting permitted every day.	Oct. 4 to Nov. 2 AND Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. Hunting permitted every day. Afternoon shooting only.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 22 to Jan. 15. Hunting permitted every day.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.
3rd District	Nov. 15 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day. Okaloosa and Walton open Nov. 15 to Nov. 30 and Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. Washington County & Holmes County CLOSED. Escambia & Santa Rosa Field and Blackwater Management areas.	Nov. 15 to Jan. 18. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL GOBBLER season, Eglin Field Mar. 28 to April 5. 1/2 hours before sunrise to 12 noon.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 13 to Nov. 16. Hunting permitted every day.	Oct. 4 to Nov. 2 AND Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. Hunting permitted every day. That part of Franklin Co. East of St. Rd. 30 and a line extending from the point where St. Rd. 30 turns West to the water line and including all of Alligator Point shall be closed to the taking of dove during the Oct. 4 to Nov. 2 portion of the Dove season. Afternoon shooting only.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 22 to Jan. 15. Hunting permitted every day.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.
4th District	Nov. 15 to Jan. 4. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County closed to Key Deer.	Nov. 15 to Jan. 18. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 13 to Nov. 16. Hunting permitted every day.	Oct. 4 to Nov. 2 AND Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. Hunting permitted every day. Afternoon shooting only.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 22 to Jan. 15. Hunting permitted every day.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.
5th District	Nov. 15 to Jan. 4. First 6 days open. Dec. 25 to Jan. 4 open. Mon., Tues., & Fri., closed at all other times.	Nov. 15 to Jan. 18. First 6 days open. Dec. 25 to Jan. 4 open. Mon., Tues., & Fri., closed at all other times.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 15 to Feb. 1. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 13 to Nov. 16. Hunting permitted every day.	Oct. 4 to Nov. 2 AND Nov. 27 to Dec. 31. Hunting permitted every day. Afternoon shooting only.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 22 to Jan. 15. Hunting permitted every day.	Dec. 13 to Jan. 11. Hunting permitted every day.

*Except in Nassau County Sundays shall be closed and Mondays shall be open to hunting of both resident and migratory game.

ALL DATES SHOWN ARE INCLUSIVE

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Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

**Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game And Fish**

★

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CHUCK SCHILLING, Fishing Editor

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C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

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The Cover from a painting by Wallace Hughes

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy, 25¢; subscription rate, \$2.00 per year. Changes of address should be reported promptly. Unsolicited pictures and editorial material will be handled with care, but Florida Wildlife cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage of same. Permission to reprint any material in this publication will be granted to responsible parties upon application to the editor. Entered as Second Class Matter Nov. 8, 1947, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

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Hunters Asked To "Play Square With the Birds"

BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED from the restrictions placed on the harvesting of canvasback and redhead ducks during the coming hunting season will depend to a great extent upon the honesty of those hunters who can "spot a canvasback a mile away" and the earnestness of those who are not sure of the species until they have the bird in their hands, according to Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

Most of the good hunters can be expected to "play square with the birds," and do no illegal shooting, intentionally or otherwise, Mr. Leffler said, but he added that there is ample evidence every year of activity by those who refuse to play by the rules. Every possible effort will be made by Federal and State officials to see that the lawbreaker does not undo the good which will be accomplished by those who restrict their shooting.

The restrictions are expected to be especially effective in those areas where canvasbacks and redheads are known to concentrate year after year and where hunting them has become somewhat of a specialized activity. But since these species are widely distributed during the migration and wintering periods the hunters of many States must face up to their responsibilities of looking carefully before pulling the trigger on incoming ducks.

Mr. Leffler sounded a word of caution to the hunter who can not readily identify the birds which are coming in on his blind — urging "if you already have cans or redheads in your bag and see some more ducks coming in, wait until you can be sure that they are not cans or redheads before you shoot."

Mr. Leffler followed this suggestion with a second one: "Make an effort to learn how to identify these species and other species when they are coming in. Conditions might any

SPECIAL AWARDS RECEIVED

THE "General Excellence" award for Florida published magazines, with circulations over 5,000, went to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's monthly publication, *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*. The trophy, sponsored by the *FLORIDA NEWSPAPER AND RADIO DIGEST*, was awarded at the annual fall meeting of the Florida Association of Magazine Publishers, at Miami Beach.

In addition to the "General Excellence" award, *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* received honorable mentions for Picture Stories, and Typography. Other Florida magazines in the larger circulation category receiving awards and honorable mention were *FLORIDA OUTDOORS*, *TROPICAL LIVING*, *SUNRISE*, *FLORIDA SPEAKS*, *FLORIDA GROWER* and *SEAFARER*.

Judges for the 1958 contest, sponsored annually by the Florida Association of Magazine Publishers, included Elmer White, secretary-manager of the Michigan Press Association; A. A. Applegate, former head of the School of Journalism, of Michigan State University; and Robert Yelvington, director of publications of the Capital Advertising Agency, Lansing, Mich. ●

FLOIDA'S WILDLIFE biologists won all the technical publications awards presented at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, at Louisville, Kentucky.

It was the first time in the history of the awards, presented by the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, that one state won both top awards.

Biologists of the Game Management Division of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission winning the awards were Charles M. Loveless, of Fort Lauderdale, James A. Powell, of Lantana, and John L. Sincock, formerly of Sebastian.

Loveless' award was for the best technical paper presented at last year's conference. Title of the paper was "Clipping Study and Techniques in Marsh Ecology Investigations."

Sincock and Powell cooperatively prepared a paper judged to be the best paper published in the annual book "Transactions of the North American Wildlife Conference." Title of the paper was "An Ecological Study of Waterfowl Areas in Central Florida." ●

year force us to limit the kill on any one of a dozen species, or even grant a bonus bird of another species. Hence what you learn this year will be of value in other years. Your State fish and game department will aid you and so will the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Descriptions, pictures and posters will help but a lot depends upon how closely an individual observes the birds on and above the water. It will pay those who have considered a duck as merely a duck to learn a little more about them."

Under the 1958-59 regulations, hunters in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways are limited to two redheads or canvasbacks in the aggregate in the daily bag and four in the aggregate in possession. ●

FISHING LICENSES

(Issued from Office of County Judge)

Exempt—Residents 65 years of age and over; children under 15. Cost includes County Judge's fees.

Series A—Resident State, Fresh Water\$2.00

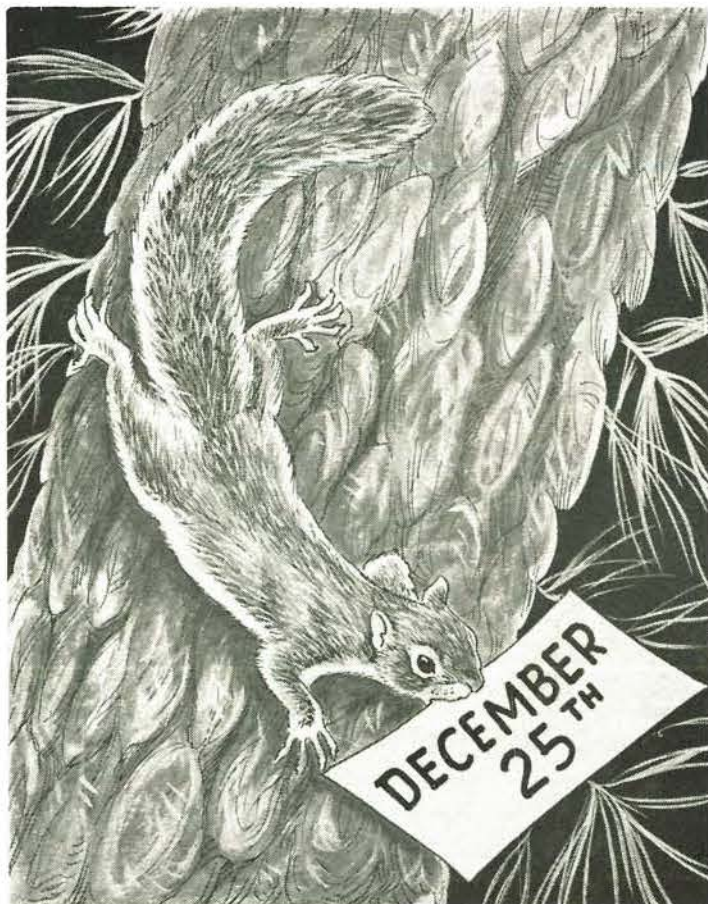
Series B—Non-Resident State, Fresh Water\$10.00

Series C—Non-Resident, 14-day Continuous Fishing, Fresh Water\$3.25

Series D—Non-Resident, 3-day Continuous Fishing, Fresh Water\$1.25

License Required to take fresh water fish.

License not required of residents to fish non-commercially with three cane poles in county of legal residence.



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Again**

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Here is a 12-in-1 gift that is perfect for your relatives, friends and business associates who like to hunt and fish in FLORIDA.

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muzzle flashes

By EDMUND McLAURIN

FIREARMS SUBJECT QUESTIONS and problems of shooters are reaching this Gun Editor's desk in increasing numbers. Whenever possible, individual, detailed replies are made direct. However, many of the questions asked are of general interest. Here are some from a recent mail . . .

Question: For upland bird shooting and for occasional use for deer hunting, what gauge and barrel length should I select in a single barrel pump or autoloading shotgun? Should the gun have a ventilated rib and a selective choke device?

Answer: Since you plan to use one gun for both upland bird shooting and deer hunting, don't go below 16 gauge—a bore diameter in which shotgun slugs and buckshot loads will perform quite well . . . Barrel length should be 26 inches or less, and preferably with a selective choke attached and included in that overall barrel length measurement . . . A full length rib is an aid to fast gun pointing, and, for the trap and Skeet shooter, the flat-ribbon, ventilated type tends to dissipate heat waves rising from a fast fired barrel. However, for rugged field service, this Gun Editor prefers either a solid rib, as available on the Ithaca Model 37R, or the deluxe ventilated rib being installed on all makes of shotguns by Simmons Gun Specialties, Kansas City 8, Missouri.

Question: What, in your opinion, are the six best standard brand big-game rifles—especially those suited to Florida hunting?

Answer: A question like yours can put a Gun Editor on the spot! No matter how logical the reasons influencing his final selections, some readers are sure to disagree with

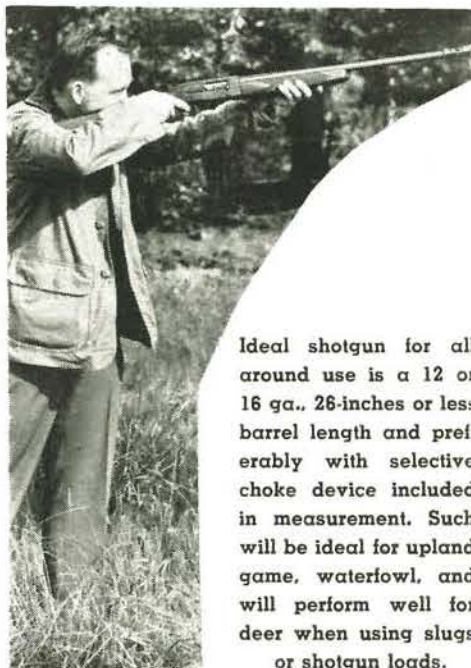
his named choices. Buying a firearm is as personal as acquiring a custom-made suit of clothes.

However, all factors considered, the following listings rate this Gun Editor's vote for the top six—but not necessarily in named sequence:

Remington Model 760—slide-action
Winchester Model 94—lever-action
Marlin Model 336—lever-action
Savage Model 99—lever-action
Winchester Model 70—bolt-action
Remington Model 740—auto-loading.

No matter what your personal preference for type of action, caliber choice, stock shape, total gun length and weight, adaptability of gun design to various sight combinations, and other characteristics that make gun models common to each other or peculiar unto themselves, a satisfying selection can surely be had from among the six named.

Question: I installed a Lyman micrometer-click receiver sight on my



Ideal shotgun for all around use is a 12 or 16 ga., 26-inches or less barrel length and preferably with selective choke device included in measurement. Such will be ideal for upland game, waterfowl, and will perform well for deer when using slugs or shotgun loads.

bolt-action big game rifle, but even with the elevation slide screwed down until it rests on the receiver my rifle shoots five inches high at 100 yards. The rifle has a sighting radius of 27 inches between front sight and the center of the peep aperture. How much higher should a new front sight be?

Answer: Reference to a handy chart furnished by the Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middlefield, Conn., shows that a rifle with 27-inch sighting radius, that shoots five inches high even with rear sight slide in lowest position, needs a front sight .0375 of an inch higher than its present one.

Remove the present front sight from the rifle, and measure its *overall* height with a micrometer. Add .0375 of an inch to that figure and order a new sight of a height that equals the sum resulting from the addition.

Other readers having similar front sight problems, but owning rifles having a different radius measurement between front and rear sights, should write the Lyman firm for a copy of the chart and specific front sight recommendations.

Question: What sizes of shot do you recommend for different game? What is the most useful size?

Answer: Much depends on how your shotgun handles different sizes of shot; it may be that you will have to compromise on one size smaller or larger than the particular shot size listed on shot selection charts.

Generally, snipe, woodcock, marsh hens and quail quickly succumb to hits from No. 7½ to No. 8 shot; squirrels to No. 5 size; doves to 7½'s; most ducks to sizes No. 5 and No. 6; geese to sizes 2 to 4; No. 0 and No. 1 buck down deer, and No. 2 size shot loads have accounted for many a fine gobbler.

This Gun Editor has successfully used size No. 7½ shot on everything from doves to ducks, and for deadly head shots on turkey; considers No. 7½ the most useful shot size among the many available loadings.

The important thing is to find out which shot sizes pattern best when fired from *your* gun, and then stick to those sizes.

Question: I am thinking of getting a rifle chambered for either the .219 Zipper or the .222 Remington cartridge for deer hunting. Are these calibers too light?

Answer: Both named calibers give desirable fast velocity and flat trajectory, but even the heaviest available bullet weights in the .219 Zipper and the .222 Remington calibers are a bit light for deer, and are apt to be easily deflected by the thick brush often encountered in deer hunting. The .219 Zipper and the .222 Remington are primarily varmint hunting calibers, for which phase of hunting they were originally developed.

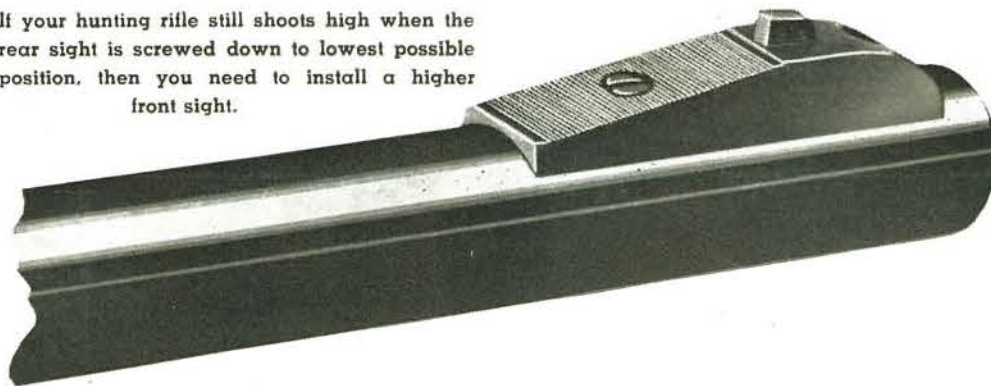
Better stick to such reliable deer-killers as the calibers .30-30, .35 Remington, .32 Winchester Special or make a selection from the newer favorites—the .300 Savage, .280 and .308.

If you want to see the difference in performance of the .219 Zipper and .222 Remington in brush, as compared to calibers like the .35 Remington, .300 Savage and the .30-30, why, stick up regulation size 100 yard range targets three to five feet behind a screen of thick brush (that has branches averaging $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter), so that you have to shoot through the intervening brush to hit the bullseyes.... You'll soon find that it takes a fairly heavy, round-nosed bullet to consistently plow through intercepting brush without bullet deflection or disintegration.

Question: What are the chances of bowhunters in competition with gunhunters when both groups simultaneously hunt the same area during regular season?

Answer: Hunting odds definitely favor the gunhunters. For one thing, their weapons can be used under hunting conditions that render a bow useless in average hands. Shots can often be made at long range with precise accuracy, or in thick brush that would tend to deflect an arrow.

If your hunting rifle still shoots high when the rear sight is screwed down to lowest possible position, then you need to install a higher front sight.



Faster follow-up shots are another advantage gunhunters have over most bowmen.

Bowhunters must get fairly close to targets; must make their all-important first shots count; are greatly handicapped in estimating lead necessary to hit running game, and when attempting to shoot arrows through small openings in thick brush. Only truly skilled bowmen can hit running game.

Consider that last year some 1700 buck deer were reportedly killed on a northwest Florida game management area by gunhunters; only six were tagged by archers. However, considering the number of gunhunters active, compared to the ranks of the archers, the latter group did not fare too badly. Most of the bowmen hunted for the sport—not meat—anyway.

The Game Commission recognizes the fact that the gunhunters have the best chances in open competition, and wisely designates special archery hunting periods ahead of the general gunhunting season — although bowmen may hunt that period, too, should they not mind the great odds against them.

Many bowmen want to see a special area set aside solely for bowhunting, for an open period comparable to the regular gunhunting season, and are willing to forego the early, special archery hunts for that privilege.

Question: Should I use a shotgun or rifle on squirrels?

Answer: If you want hunting sport that will live in your memory for your lifetime, use a .22 rifle with either low-power scope sight or rear peep and blade front combination,

and .22 long rifle (not longs!) hollow point cartridges.

Although any accurate .22 can be used for squirrel hunting, this Gun Editor especially likes such models as the Winchester Model 61 and Remington 572 slide-actions, the Marlin 39A lever-action and the J. C. Higgins Model 31 autoloader.

The low report of a .22 will not frighten game like the boom of a shotgun. However, if you do decide on a shotgun, then use one of .410 gauge, of which the Winchester Model 42 pump is an admirable example.

Some squirrel hunters like to keep moving, seeking the bushytails over a wide area. Others like to sit quietly amid moss-festooned oaks and make shots as the wary, but curious, little animals seek the source of an occasionally sounded squirrel call.

Question: What about all the surplus military rifle models now being advertised in just about every magazine that reaches male hands? Are these practical for hunting? I am interested in either a .303 Royal Enfield Jungle Carbine or a Canadian Ross.

Answer: Many of the offered bargains have seen hard usage and also are not mechanically suited to easy, inexpensive conversion to weapons of the sporting class. Also, some of the listings are chambered for ammunition that may be difficult to obtain, or even obsolete, within the next five to ten years.

Better "Buy American!"—even if you have to pay a little more for the rifle of your choice. Not only will factory service and parts be available for a long time, but so will needed ammunition. ●



By **CHUCK SCHILLING**



IT'S ONLY A SHORT TIME until Christmas, and I've got a few suggestions that may help with your selection of gifts. This is always a chore. What to give is a question that almost defies solution. Individual tastes being what they are, it's pretty risky to choose wearing apparel or household goods. I finally have hit upon a splendid system to handle this problem if you are on the receiving end.

At our house, we were accumulating stacks of bric-a-brac and odd ball clothing that had to be hurriedly worn or displayed whenever the donor appeared on the scene. This was getting more complicated than a rocket count-down. Under my new system, gifts arriving get a critical appraisal. If they please our taste and if we can use them, we put them to work. If not, we give them away. It's wonderful.

If you are looking for a gift that won't be given away, for a person who likes the out-of-doors or who you would like to interest in the outdoors, let me suggest a year's subscription to this magazine. It

costs only \$2, and an application blank is on the outside of the back cover. Your \$2 will bring a reminder of your thoughtfulness to your friend once a month in the coming year.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE comes close to being an all-round, family magazine. In its pages, you'll find something of the outdoors for everyone from Grandpa to Junior. You won't find stories of hunting the Ubangi unicorn in South Africa, snaring the snarling Bengal tiger in India, or teasing the tackle testers on the banks of the Yukon. You'll have to be content with reading just about hunting and fishing in the wonderful Florida outdoors and news of interest about the Florida outdoor community.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE is especially appreciated by those in other states. Do you have a relative or friend living outside Florida? If so, they would, undoubtedly, enjoy this magazine each month. Interest in Florida outside our borders is at an all-time high.

Outdoors, Inc.

Here's another suggestion for an

unusual Christmas gift, if your budget will stand a greater strain. Do you have an outdoor man or girl who has dreamed of going on some particular fishing trip? Would you like to make such a dream come true? Here's how you can do it. Outdoors, Inc. is located at 103 Guitar Bldg., Columbia, Mo. Buck Rogers runs this outfit, and he was tailored his company to fit the needs of the traveling sportsman. Outdoors, Inc. has world-wide contacts with the best fishing places available, and they have package trips set up to handle any sort of a request for any length of time or for any amount of people.

Would a group of four like to fish five days in the Florida Keys? Would a man and wife like to try Lake Okeechobee for 10 days in January? Does someone dream of Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia in the spring, small-mouth bass in the Black Hills in May, muskies in Lake of the Woods in June, brook trout on the Nipigon in July? All these and many, many more similar trips, opportunities, and places are avail-



WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1958-59 Federal migratory waterfowl hunting stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of \$2.00, the stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

The Canada Geese shown at left are featured on the 1958-59 stamp and are from a drawing by Leslie C. Kouba.

able from Outdoors, Inc., at reasonable prices for all-expense tours, everything furnished. In some cases, even installment payments can be arranged. With the staff at his disposal, Rogers is able to secure the best accommodations, the best guides, the best up-to-the-minute information, and the best prices possible. His organization is worth its weight in gold to the sportsman who eyes distant places.

This is the first time such a service has ever been offered, but it is one that has been sorely needed. If you would like to learn more about this outfit, write to Buck Rogers at Columbia or ask your sporting goods dealer to get information about Outdoors, Inc., for you.

Snow Birds

Last December, two Snow Birds in the form of Virginia and Gerry Brooks arrived at our house in Jensen Beach in the middle of the month. They had come for a two-week fishing vacation. They brought with them a cold blast of arctic weather that had this poor Florida cracker frozen up tighter than the bird bath in my back yard. I'm not exaggerating—our bird bath had $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of ice on it every morning. All thought of fishing had left my mind completely. No one fishes in such weather, and especially not fishing experts. In fact, as far as I was concerned, one does nothing in such weather that doesn't include staying indoors close to a source of heat.

The Brookses, however, looked on the weather picture as only slightly off the norm. The cold, bright days were just invigorating to them. They wanted to go fishing. I patiently explained that fishing in such weather was just a waste of time. I told these poor, uninformed Yankees about the tropical nature of our fish and how cold weather sends them scurrying for deep water that is unaffected by surface temperatures. I fought hard, I used every artifice in the book, but it was a losing battle—we went fishing.

The Snow Birds had plenty of heavy clothing with them, although they hardly seemed to notice the



Christmas snow birds who didn't know enough to stay home in cold weather, went bass fishing and found a 36-pound snook that made the same mistake.

cold. I wore all the clothes I could move about in, and I was still cold. Besides, I had that dead feeling of frustration that comes with being forced to do something you know is doomed to failure from the start.

Dispiritedly, I headed for the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, where you can at least always find shelter from the wind. Burt Pruitt wouldn't even come outside to say, "Hello"—he merely waved at us through the kitchen window. His expression plainly showed he thought we were nuts, while I only hoped my own expression was somewhat less revealing.

We used two boats—the Brookses in one, and my wife and I in another. It was cold. A few mullet were swimming in tight circles at the surface with their heads held high, mouths open. I figured we'd cast a few hours and, by then, I could reasonably suggest going home when we drew a blank. It didn't quite work out that way.

The warmest place on the river was Tarpon Bay. This bay is sheltered from a north wind, and the sun warms the shallow water. That's where I headed. At the mouth of a creek that runs back into the swamp, I hit a good fish and, after a brief struggle, boated a 3-lb. black bass. The Snow Birds were not near and, as I judged this to be an isolated in-

cident, I said nothing.

A second cast brought a hard strike, this time from a 5-lb. jack crevalle. This was not such an easy matter—before I had landed him, Gerry had spotted the action and come to join the fun. We anchored the boats about 100 feet apart at the mouth of the creek and began what turned out to be three days of the most terrific fishing I have ever encountered.

The four of us caught fish until our arms were sore. We were using spinning tackle and seldom made a cast that didn't produce a strike, and some casts produced three and four strikes, as one fish would spit the hook, only to have another grab it. We caught bass and bream, jacks, ladyfish, snook, channel bass, and snappers. We caught an occasional moonfish, a few sea trout, and several gaff-topsail catfish. We were catching something all the time. It seemed that all the fish in the river had, like us, moved to Tarpon Bay to find protection from the wind in the sun-warmed waters.

Gerry Brooks is the President of the South Bend Tackle Company, and he had with him a quantity of new tackle he was anxious to field test. This made a wonderful opportunity. We fished and fished. The schools of fish didn't scare, and they

(Continued on Page 39)

It takes reckless abandon,
sheer nerve, trained dogs
and a stout sportsman's heart to
join the melee we will call

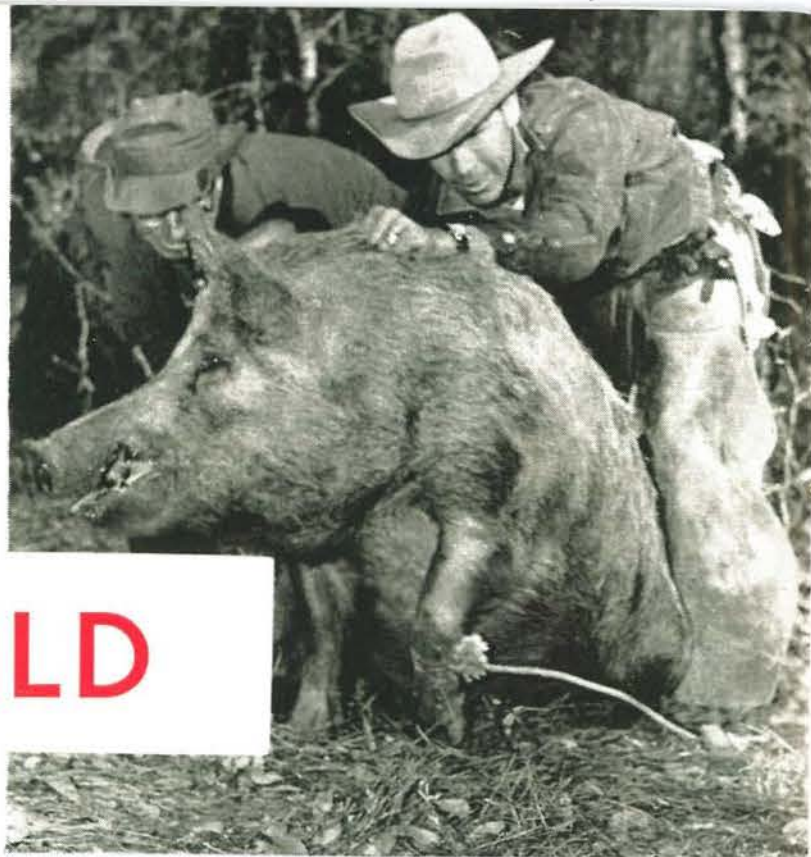
HOG WILD

By GEORGE X. SAND

DEEP IN DIXIE, a small band of hard-riding, excitement-loving Florida hunters have formed what is probably the most exclusive man's club of its type in the world: one definitely not suited for males with weak pumps.

Led by John Clardy, a husky Ocala rancher and oil distributor who rides with the reckless abandon of a horseman half his fifty-odd years, these sportsmen, less than a dozen in number, capture barehanded the large and very dangerous wild boars which frequent the remote north-central Florida swamps and pine ridges in the vicinity of Silver Springs.

Membership requirements for this club are few, yet rugged. You must be the type of red-blooded individual who can get a real charge from chasing a 300- or 400-pound tusker at full gallop through impossibly thick, palmetto-spined woods, then — with a flying leap from your sweat-stained saddle — bulldoze the squealing, snarling thoroughly enraged beast to earth. There, with the snapping brute pinned helplessly down

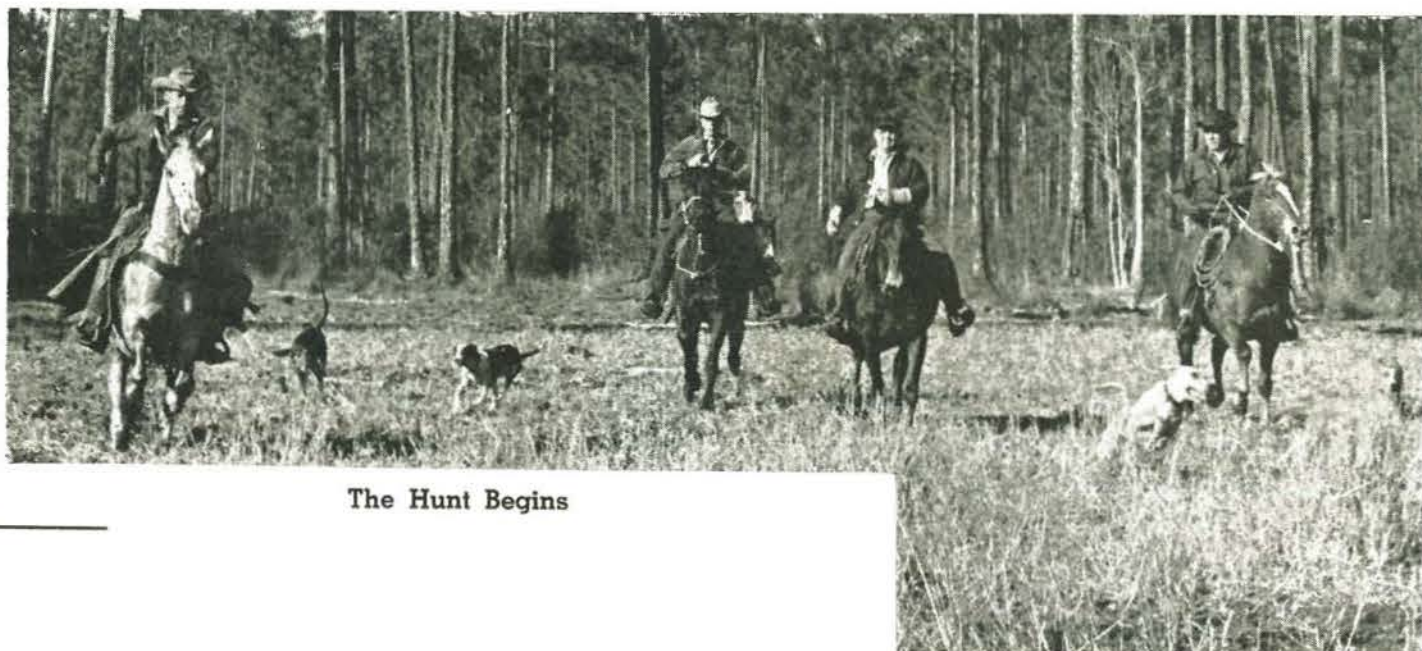


Joe Clements, left, and Buddy O'Neal aren't afraid to tackle the big tuskers by hand. Bed ticking strips are usually used for tying, since they do not slip like rope.

by the weight of your body (you hope!) you quickly tie its flailing hooves with 3-foot strips of bed ticking (which these gents have discovered hold much better than rope).

No guns are allowed. In fact, you are not even permitted a lasso. There are no dues. You pay nothing — except a few pints of spilled blood should you not prove lightening-fast on your feet and the charging tusker, its little eyes blood-red with hot hate — manages to rip open your soft belly. He'll enjoy doing it, too.

Clardy, a stocky rancher with a strong, square face and steel-gray hair, is strictly a horse and dog sportsman. He owns probably the last of the great hunting dog packs in southeastern U. S., perhaps even in the nation. For the past 32 years he has hunted and bagged



The Hunt Begins

all of Florida's wild animals and others elsewhere on this continent. Yet, he says, "If I can't do it with dogs and horses, I don't care to hunt."

The rigidly trained dogs are kept, along with the equally well-disciplined horses, on a separate 300-acre ranch. In addition to the 35 boar hounds there are others used for hunting deer, bear and the fleet Florida wildcat.

In order to properly train his bear hounds, Clardy once had four captive bears shipped down from Canada. Unlike the Florida bears, which cannot be as easily tamed for dog training purposes, the animals from the Northwoods have an inherent fear of dogs which springs from their experience as cubs with marauding wolves. Hence, they are not so apt to injure the hounds while they are being trained.

For the vicious boars Clardy prefers to use what he calls "leopard cow dogs." These fearless hounds, which were first used to bay and catch wild hogs by early American pioneers, stem from a doubtful ancestry of Australian cow dog, bull and common cur. Never one to emphasize pedigree, Clardy admits that his packs have been culled from hundreds of animals, many of which were mongrels that first caught his eye by their very belligerence.

"You know," he says, "these boars have self-sharpening tusks (the Southerner's word for tusks). When a dog gets in close they don't hesitate to use those knife-sharp weapons to cut him wide open. If a hound can show me he's got grit and courage, can stand up and take care of himself during such in-fighting, he's the kind of dog I can use."

In order to keep the animals eager and greyhound-fast, Clardy feeds his fight-loving boar dogs but five meals a week ("Over 100 pounds of raw beef for two nights, then dry dog food the rest.").

These dogs are so tough that once while the author was riding to a hunt with "Mr. John," as he is affectionately known in the Ocala-Silver Springs area, a frightening battle broke out in the dog van which we were towing behind us. The snarling, snapping, angry crescendo rose to terrific pitch, yet Clardy drove on unperturbed.

"It sounds to me like they are killing one another," I finally blurted.

"A good boar dawg is tough. He's got every right to be noisy," the husky Southerner beside me drawled significantly. "Sometimes they actually do kill one of 'em back there before we can get the door open and separate 'em. But then, a boar would nail that kind of weak dawg anyway."

Clardy's veterinarian bill for 1956 ran over \$400. Last winter, while he and his 16-year-old son, Sandy, were deer hunting from horseback with four hounds, their dogs "bayed up" and caught a boar by mistake. Realizing the danger to the inexperienced animals, John Clardy jumped off and grabbed the vicious wild pig, which proved considerably larger than the sportsman had anticipated.

"Things got a bit rough and, with all four deer dogs cut and bleeding, I decided it might be a good idea to send Sandy for help."

The boy rushed to the nearby ranch of Col. Lamar Rainey at Silver Springs, another saddle-born wild hog hunter and old friend of Clardy's, who promptly came to his aid.

"By the time we got that hawg tied up, however, one of the dawgs was in sorry shape. She'd lost just about every drop of blood in her. When I carried her into the vet and laid her on the operating table, I said, 'Here is a daid dawg, you'll never save her'."

Because the men had phoned ahead the vet was

(Continued on next Page)



O'Neal, left, and leader John Clardy get ready to dismount and aid the snarling hounds who are holding a big boar at bay.



(Continued from preceding Page)

prepared and he immediately injected a quart of saline solution and glucose into the limp hound. This was followed by a hasty blood transfusion from another dog. The torn body was then sewn up with wire. (Instead of catgut, since the wire stitches cannot be gnawed out.)

"And the next day she was on the come-back," says Clardy with an appreciative grin on his strong face.

"In fact, Rainey and I have decided that if anything serious ever happens to us we're going to these animal doctors first, instead of the regular kind, for they really do a wonderful job with our dogs."

Normally it takes about ten days for a gored animal to recover. The canine's system is highly resistant to infection, and with the assistance of a liberal injection of penicillin, seldom is an injured dog lost if it can be gotten to a vet in time.

Clardy's hunting companions are every bit as tough as the leopard cow dogs. Among his "regulars" he includes such battle-scarred veterans as Buddy O'Neal, Joe Clements, and Perry Register. Still classed as "learners," are husky, easy-going Paul May; fast-riding T. L. Rainey, the Colonel's son; Russell Sands, Clardy's son-in-law; all youngsters in their mid-20's.

Buddy O'Neal, 27, was raised in Florida's remote Gulf Hammock region where he punched cattle and caught wild hogs "ever since he was old enough to climb up onto a horse." Buddy is the only man Clardy has met who is fast enough to let a wild boar charge him head-on and yet catch the beast safely by its ears. Clardy recalls he was much impressed the first time he saw this done. The howling, leaping dogs had cornered a huge wild tusker, a coal-black 400-pound brute, which had sought refuge inside a thick clump of palmettos. Hidden from their view, the wary men could hear its tusks clicking together menacingly as it awaited their approach. Its harsh breathing, and grinding teeth sounded evil, like hot blowers fanning the fires of Hell.

"That boar was tossing our dogs back into our faces as fast as they'd rush into the palmetto clump, — sometimes six feet into the air," Clardy recalls. "Joe Clements had gone in on hands and knees to try and crawl up behind the big hawg, when Buddy galloped up. He saw at once what was happening and pushed right in there and caught that big devil head-on when it rushed him."

Normally, the hog is grabbed from behind while the dogs claim its attention. The left hand grasps the tail while the right secures the hind leg. This is the



"Hog catcher," homemade wire snood pulled through hollow bar, is used to subdue small pig. Note bed ticking strips, carried at men's belts, which they have found to work better than rope in tying up boars. Note, too, O'Neal's left sleeve, ripped open from previous encounter.

technique of the pioneer hog hunters, who first discovered that the powerful beasts could be held in this manner.

Joe Clements and Perry Register, while in their fifties and perhaps not as cat-quick as Buddy, are equally tough and handy with the big boars. Joe grew up on Georgia's Altamaha River west of Savannah, where he hunted wild hogs in the swamps since childhood. Perry hails from Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp where he and his father and brothers likewise owned dogs and caught bear and wild pigs all their lives.

Although the wild boar has been obliged to retreat steadily before an advancing population, being found today only in remote areas such as the Florida swamps, certain sections of eastern Texas, and the unsettled cane brakes and oak hammocks of Louisiana, John Clardy recognizes these bristling-toothed fighters as being the most dangerous animal on the North American continent. You will find many who agree, too.

"They are completely unpredictable and without fear of man," he points out. "They'll charge you upon sight, regardless how big you are — or how many. While more than one hunter, coming suddenly upon a Kodiak bear, for instance, has been able to talk himself safely out of mauling range, because human speech will puzzle such bears, he'd never get away with it on a wild boar."

Clardy has studied the history of U. S. wild boars and found that such pigs, like the now almost extinct wild Florida cow that was the forerunner of the famous Texas longhorns, were first brought here by



John Clardy smiles in background as dogs rush off in pursuit of a second wild boar as his son-in-law, right, and O'Neal finish trussing up mean-looking tusker just brought to earth. That's a knife at O'Neal's hip, not a gun; firearms are not used.

the early Spanish invaders.

"In time, some of these animals escaped to the wilds. A hawg will revert to the wild state perhaps quicker than any other animal. Even in captivity, psychiatrists credit him with being the smartest of all domestic animals," he explains. "The true wild hawg is coal black. Any shadings of red, brown or white indicate that some degree of domesticity remains. The real McCoy, however, can be told by the pure black coat, big ears, long snout and tremendous tusches."

Clardy respects the wild hog because it has survived over the 300-odd intervening years in spite of opposition by the tawny Florida panther (which preys on its young), the antagonistic black bear, and human hunters. Foremost among the latter are the farmers and ranchers who want to eliminate the boar because it roots up their cattle pastures, eats the acorns and other natural food of their game, and also destroys valuable pine seedlings in their timber forests.

The hard-riding leader and his chase-loving cowboy cronies enjoy exclusive hog-hunting rights on more than 100,000 acres of cattle range in the Ocala area. The ranchers are happy for such opportunity to rid their acres of the rooting, dangerous boars. They also appreciate the fact that Clardy and his men will not harm their cows — being experienced cattlemen themselves — nor forget to close gates, and so on.

Some 15 years ago this Florida land was open range

where the part-wild pigs of the native "Crackers" had been allowed to roam for years. In view of the increasing damage being done by the steadily rising wild pig population, however, the cattlemen had no choice but to fence their properties and give the hog owners a five year period in which to remove the last of their free-roaming animals. However, although this order was obeyed, and despite use of supposedly hog-tight fences, the wild and the semi-wild boars continued to multiply, thanks to a favorable Florida climate and abundant wild food.

Since then Clardy and his companions have caught barehanded uncounted hundreds of these dangerous, foraging beasts. The animals are first offered to the ranchers on whose acres they were captured. Should the cattlemen involved not wish to eat this wild pork or domesticate the wild strain for breeding stock, the captive is offered elsewhere or kept for such purposes by the hunters themselves.

Only in those cases where a captured boar proves too large and dangerous to keep in captivity is the animal destroyed. Clardy and his men emphasize that they hunt mainly for the sport, with no desire to kill.

As Clardy puts it, "Anybody can ride up or walk up to an animal and shoot it down, particularly with these high-powered guns they have now."

Several years ago Clardy was asked to provide a wild boar for what was to be a fight to the finish between a boar and a wild Florida panther. A man from the North had long wondered what would be the outcome of such an encounter and was willing to pay to see the two antagonists placed in a corral. Clardy was very interested, too. In fact, he was willing to bet on the boar, although practically everyone favored the big cat, since it weighed considerably more than the pig which Clardy recalls was "just a scrawny little 150-pounder."

No sooner had the two animals faced one another, when the panther made the first move. Like a streak of golden light it pounced upon the boar and tried to hold the pig's head between the unsheathed claws of its powerful forepaws. The squealing hog, however, instantly charged forward and proceeded to stab the panther in the belly with one of its knife-sharp tusks.

The fight lasted for five hours, during which time John Clardy took and won all bets. "They had put a pan of water in the corral," he recalls. "And that hog would pause just long enough to put his snout into that water to cool off. Then he'd go look up the cat and whip him all over again."

Two days later, still penned up with the hog and purposely allowed no food, the panther managed to catch the hog unawares in their confined quarters and bite it to death.

Clardy, a widower, has two daughters in addition to his son, Sandy. Both are excellent horsewomen. The shelves of his study are filled to overflowing with

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GO EASY ON TOP

There's something about the
way a bass takes a
surface lure that no other
fishing thrill can match

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

water bait than any other way," he stated matter-of-factly.

A bass always seems to fight a little bit harder on the surface. It appears to shake off all inhibitions when it comes up to where there is plenty of elbow room. A frantic bass pinwheeling across the surface is a joy to behold, and watching one zip upward in alcohol-clear water to suck a floater down is an impressionable thrill in itself.

Take the time last summer, for instance. Johnny and I were plugging up in a narrow cove where a tiny spring-fed rivulet emptied into the lake. Roughly five feet from the stream mouth there was a marginal line where clear water met the vegetation-stained waters of the lake. Bass congregated along this line to feed on plankton carried in by the stream. They went hog-wild over our poppers.

Action, then, is the keynote to successful top-water angling. Color of the bait is of secondary importance. Personally, I feel that only the shade of color is what counts most in a surface plug. Skylight a lure at arm's length and you'll see what I mean. It is difficult to distinguish individual colors.

Last October while attending Mercury Outboards annual press conference at Florida's Silver Springs, I participated in a brief extemporaneous experiment. We tossed plugs on the surface and asked a submerged diver to identify the colors. It is impossible, even in the tap-clear water. We found that black was most easily seen in sunshiny weather; light shades showed up best when silhouetted against an overcast sky. But, strangely, an extreme in the other direction usually will bring best results. In night fishing, I've found black to be the better producing color. Often shad-colored lures get the most strikes on bright days.

Dave Hawk with a nice bass that succumbed to a propeller type surface lure.

THAT LOOKS LIKE A choice spot," Ken Gumm mused thoughtfully, lobbing his chuggar toward a pocket formed by a formidable cypress tree and the grass-carpeted bank.

It was a beautifully perfect cast. The black-with-white-ribs chuggar grazed the tree trunk as it rested lightly on the water. Ken allowed it to set quietly for a couple dozen seconds, then twitched it seductively.

At that moment when the lure burped, the water around it humped convulsively. It disappeared in a violent swirl.

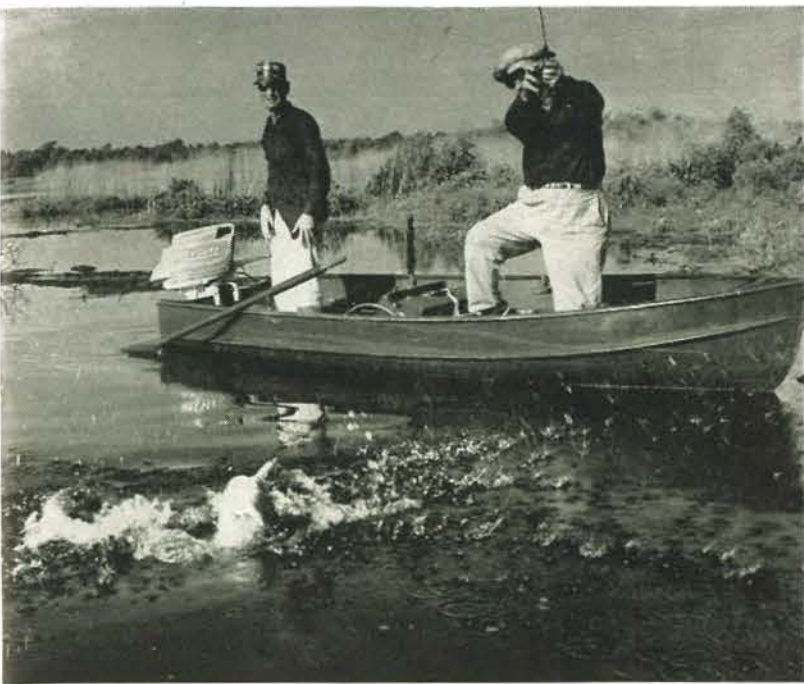
Ken's resilient rod raked downward. He has caught more than his share of big bass and one naturally would expect him to take such proceedings calmly. But nothing is placid about top-water fishing for bass. Ken war whooped like a startled indian and reared back on his rod. The bass exploded skyward in a cone of silvery spray.

There's something about the way a truculent large-mouth black bass hot-roads to the surface to smash a bait that no other fishing thrill can match. It is like comparing silent movies with modern TV. Fishing an underwater lure, an angler only can feel the forceful surge of the strike. But on the surface sound and visual effects accompany the action.

Ken played the acrobatic bass around and into the landing net. It was a pot-bellied 5½-pounder.

He grasped the fish by its lower lip and hoisted it for me to admire.

"It is ten times more fun to catch a bass on a top-



In the hands of a skilled fisherman, the surface type artificial is a deadly bass weapon.

Despite its fascinating appeal, top-water fishing is in the minority among bass anglers. One reason is because underwater baits normally will take more bass than surface lures. Another is that top-water plugging is more exasperating, taxing both the skill and patience of the angler.

A surface bait can't be fished haphazardly. While some bass can be caught on underwater baits tossed at random over likely looking water, a surface bait must be pinpointed to limited areas and fished slowly and deliberately. Pick out a choice spot where you believe a bass to be lurking and try to put your lure in that area on the initial cast. The success of your venture will depend on that first attempt.

The favorite retrieve is to fish the plug in stop-and-go jerks, letting it rest idle several seconds between each twitch. A change-of-pace will sometimes bring results when this conventional retrieve fails, however. Some days a plug fished extra slow is the medicine for putting bass on the stringer. On others a bait retrieved fairly fast with continuous stop-pause-stop jerks is best. I've even caught fish by casting the bait and start reeling the moment it touches the surface, bringing it homeward with a steady retrieve, letting the propellers churn a long trail of bubbles.

I discovered this technique quite accidentally. L. A. Wilke and I were maneuvering black chuggars along the edge of some reeds early one humid spring morning. We'd drop our baits practically against the vegetation and fish them for a dozen or more bewitching jerks, before dragging the baits boatward for another cast.

After one particular session of playing my lure, I started it toward me fairly fast, the bait dancing along



Pinpointed casts and slow, deliberate retrieves are requisites for successful top-water bass angling.

the surface. About halfway home there was a quick swirl and the artificial disappeared. I was fast onto a grandpa bass.

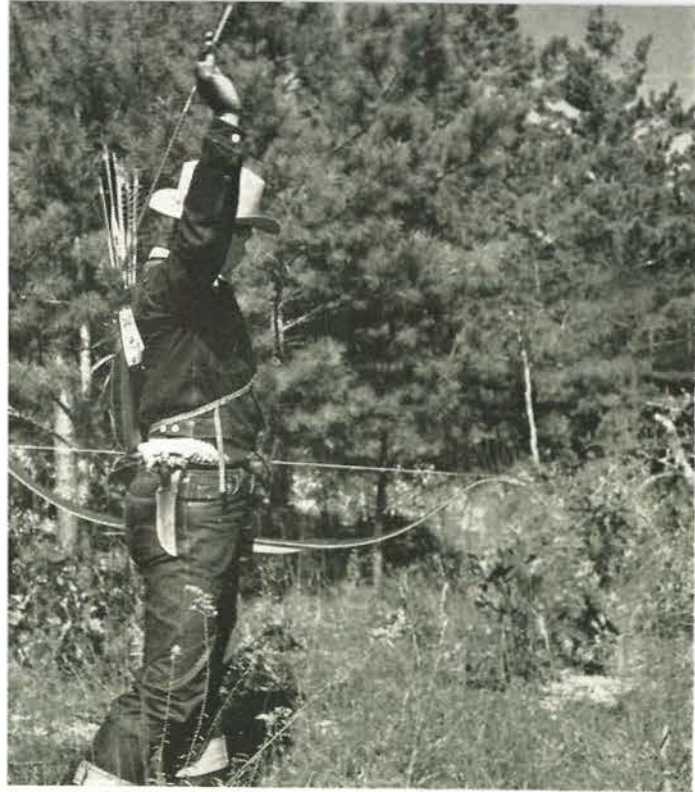
I didn't think much about it at the time. But a few minutes later L. A. nailed another under identical circumstances. We started fishing our lures in a like fashion and soon our stringers were heavy with bass.

I've experimented with this retrieve several times since, and have found that the spinner-type bait works best since it moves more gracefully over the surface with a steady retrieve. Have you ever noticed how shiner minnows scat frantically just under the surface when fleeing from a marauding bass? I'm sure that foraging fish must get the same impression of retreat from a bait fluttering across the top.

It is nigh impossible to fish a surface bait properly while working from an outboard-powered boat. An engine simply won't idle down enough to allow an angler to work his bait at the correct speed, or be able to hit the best spots with consistency. We always fish two in a boat, letting one handle the paddle to keep the utility parallel to shore while the other bombards the choice locations. Generally, we work out a system whereas we switch places every thirty minutes.

When a pair of anglers fish from the same boat, great caution should be exercised on the casts. Don't spoil the fishing for one another. It is better if one

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Photos by Bill Hansen

Failure to make a kill has never been a major factor where the archer is concerned. Enthusiastic preparation, practice, experiences afield, and woodland adventure prove as exciting as the eventual bagging of a trophy.

A rising clan of

avid sportsmen are finding

increased hunting thrills in being . . .

Handicapped By Choice

By MORRIS H. SHAW

UPWARD FROM THE MURKY depths of the forest drifted the sound effects of the ancient drama. Furtive rustlings there were and mysterious thumps, sudden momentary thrashings in the underbrush, subdued squeaks, squeals, and faint scratchings.

The archer settled comfortably on the rough planking of his tree stand, his back braced against the bole of the venerable liveoak. Amazing, he mused, how downright noisy a Florida swamp ridge can be in the pre-dawn gloom of a calm fall morning.

Then suddenly, as though borne on the wings of the vagrant breeze that eddied through the woodlands and rumbled the leaf-carpeted floor of the forest, it was dawn. No spectacular play of color was there. Rather the new day in the big woods stole in unobtrusively like the four-footed hunters that stalked beneath the protective canopy of the timber. There was an imperceptible shifting of light through shades of gray until quite suddenly, stumps, logs, bushes, and trees stood out individually from the formless mass of which they had been a part but a moment before. The night sounds faded away. Now narrow fingers of golden sunlight

probed tentatively through the leafy screen.

The wilderness day shift took over. From somewhere overhead came the subdued rapping of a woodpecker warming up for the day's activities. A cat squirrel scurried up the rough trunk of a hickory, pausing momentarily to bark rustily before continuing the climb. Muted by



The increasing popularity of bow and arrow hunting is not confined to the "stronger sex." In both the skill and kill departments, the ladies are sharing equal honors with the menfolk.

distance and the intervening timber came the lusty cawing of a flock of crows preparing for the morning's foraging.

Suddenly, as if spontaneously generated from the very earth itself, there stood a buck. No announcement of his coming, no crack of twig, no swishing of brush, he was simply there. Immobile, the craggy antlered whitetail posed at the edge of a gallberry thicket testing the air currents. With heart thumping heavily despite his efforts to control its mad poundings, the bowyer silently shifted his position. With smooth fluid movement he drew a feathered shaft to its fullest extent and released the deadly missile.

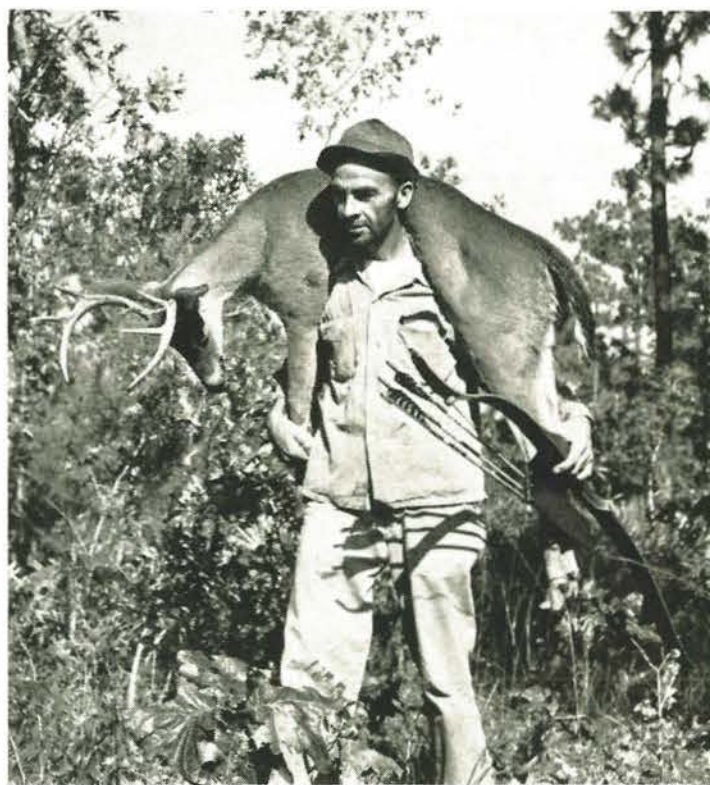
The shaft whispered on its mission, glinting momentarily as a flash of fire, reflecting a beam of sunlight it sliced on its way to the target. There was a *thwap* of arrow meeting solid flesh. The buck gave a startled, stifflegged lurch. He paused for a fleeting instant, then melted into the tangle of gallberry and ti-ti that bordered the hardwood island.

The hunter's natural instinct was to clamor down from his aerial perch and race in pursuit of the vanished deer. He fought down the



Photo by Bill Hansen

Above: Bow and arrow hunting has become a family affair and many an annual vacation is spent afield, — camping, hunting, and the sharing of outdoor experiences. Right: Veteran archer, Jack Fullbright, bagged this 115-pound whitetail deer on the third day of this year's Eglin Management Area October archery hunt.



Commission Photo by Jim Floyd

urge, knowing it was wiser to remain where he was until certain the arrow completed its deadly chore.

With strenuous effort to control his shaking hands, he dug a package of cigarettes out of his shirt pocket, extracted one, and struck fire. By the time he had finished his smoke, his nerves had calmed down remarkably. Funny, he thought, this is the first time I've had buck fever since I was a kid.

He waited a few minutes longer. Then, forcing himself to move slowly, he eased down from the platform. Once on the ground, he nocked another arrow and as stealthily as the dry litter on the forest floor allowed, he approached the place where the whitetail had stood.

A crimson splotch on the fallen leaves marked the spot. With practiced quiet, the hunter stalked along the buck's wake. No need to exercise any great skill in woodcraft for the trail was well blazed with blood. He pushed into the thicket and with senses straining to catch any possible warning that the buck was still on his feet, he followed the spoor. A scant fifty yards from the spot where the arrow had driven home, the archer found his game. The buck lay in a tiny clearing in the brush. Sleek

coated he was and fat from the abundant mast. The ten point rack rose in symmetrical beauty, clean and smooth as weather-browned and burnished ivory.

Three seasons of bow hunting had finally brought a payoff, with interest! The hunter felt a curious sensation of elation rising within himself. Not the elation over the fact that he



As in other phases of hunting, the archer has his own preference as to style and type of equipment. Everything must be kept in tip-top shape, and razor-sharp arrow heads are a requisite for clean kills.

had finally downed the monarch of Black Cat Bay. Rather it was a feeling of having regained something that, once long ago had been highly valued, then lost. Once again he had found the pure sheer enjoyment of the chase, a feeling that somehow had become jaded and finally all but slipped away after years of successful rifle hunting.

And so it is with many sportsmen. The circumstances of their initiation into the circle varies in detail but each succeeding season sees ever increasing numbers of devotees of the ancient weapon brought into the fold.

Of all the variety of birds and animals, both game and non-game, sought by archers, the white-tailed deer seems to be the all around ultimate. In size, the deer is ideal. Big enough to give the archer the feeling that he has done something when he succeeds in driving an arrow home, yet not so huge that it calls for magnum equipment to bring one down.

Since earliest times a trophy sized set of buck antlers has occupied an exalted position on the list of the huntsman's mementos. Then too, the meat offers a welcome bonus, a

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The Sabal Palm has been selected as the State Tree because of its universal popularity, and its many uses as food and medicine.

WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT Florida offers little in the way of ice and snow as far as the Christmas of the North is concerned, the fields and forests of this State do contribute much in the way of nature's gift to Christmas decorations, and many Florida homes will take advantage of such gifts this year.

These decorations bridge the gap from hollies and mistletoe to evergreens and cedars, and in more recent years the Palm tree has come into its own as a symbol of Christmastime in Florida.

All the above items are found throughout the State and while they aren't necessarily free for the taking, few landowners will object to small amounts of various types of greenery being taken after permission is granted.

One must not discount, however, the laws of the State that relate to the preservation of wild trees, shrubs and plants and prohibit the taking of various types of holly and other plants from public or private lands, unless the owner of the land gives consent in writing.

There are some 25 to 30 different varieties of holly

When decorating your home
for the Holiday Season, you will
add significance by including a

Christmas Gift From Nature

By JACK SHOEMAKER

growing in America, with many of them found in the South. They come in all shapes and sizes, bear berries that range in color from bright red and yellow to black and even white, and have either spiny or smooth leaves.

Several varieties of holly grow in Florida with the three most prominent being the American, the Dahoon and the Yaupon species. The American is the most plentiful and it grows in hammocks or along their margins. The Dahoon, or Christmas Berry, grows in wet areas around lakes and low hammocks. The Yaupon, which has small dark green leaves and deep red berries, grows on sandy hillsides and on dunes near salt water.

The holly is a very useful plant. You can make buttons from the berries, tea from the leaves, birdlime (an adhesive substance used to snare birds) from the bark, winter fodder for cattle from the tender young stems and the wood is employed in inlaying and turning.

The Indians of early Pennsylvania made decorative buttons from the berries after preserving or hardening



A Canary Island Palm, over 30 feet high and decorated with 1,007 lights, was Lady Lake's community Christmas tree last year.



Several varieties of holly grow in Florida and make excellent decorations.

them. They believe that the holly was a token of success in battle and such buttons were worn on their clothes. During the first World War, some European Armies made tea from the Holly leaves and the drink was used as a nerve and muscle stimulant. Various healing properties attributed to the holly include treatment for colic, coughs, rickets, toothache, smallpox, jaundice and gangrene.

Considerable antiquity is behind the custom of using holly as a decorative item, and there's much in folklore and legend regarding this plant. It has been regarded as the survival of a practice of hanging the interiors of dwellings with evergreens as a refuge for spirits from the inclement weather. This was particularly used as far back as the Druids, and ancient order of priests of Britain and France who lived some 2,000 years ago.

Like the holly, the mistletoe also has a place in history with the Druids gathering it with great ceremony and hanging it in their homes. The Druids worshipped this plant because it grew on their sacred oak, and its parasitic growth on various trees was responsible for the belief that the plant symbolized man's dependence upon a Supreme Being.

Various curative powers ascribed to the mistletoe including curing corns, frostbite, bubonic plague, apoplexy, leprosy, gout and colic. Even today, scientists are searching for possible medical properties of this plant.

The historical background of this "kissing plant" includes religious associations with the Romans and the Scandinavians. The Romans ornamented their temples and homes with greenery from this plant when they observed the feast of the Saturnalis (a sort of festival when the masters served their slaves).

Also about this time, the plant juices from the mistletoe were prepared as a draught and used as a supposed cure for sterility and a remedy against poison. In Scandinavian legend, the mistletoe is supposed to have supplied the arrow with which Balder, the Sun god, was slain by the Blind Hoder.

So the mistletoe which can be found throughout most sections of Florida has an interesting history of association with many phases of the world's development. However, few statistics can be found as to why it has become so popular as the decoration that gives approval to the widespread practice of kissing at Christmas parties and social events during this period of the year.

Mistletoe can be found at all times of the year, but particularly is it evident and seen during the fall after the leaves have fallen from the trees. Plants growing in pecan and hickory trees seem to produce the larger and whiter berries, and persons adept at climbing have made themselves quite a bit of pocket money by hauling down sprigs for sale purposes.

The plant is parasitic and the fruit is eaten by many birds. In fact, it's through the eating by the birds that the propagation of the plant is spread. After a bird eats some of the fruit in which the seeds are imbedded, it wipes its beak against the bark of the tree on which it has lighted. The pulp hardens around the seed deposited by the bird and in germination the sucker root penetrates the bark of the tree and makes contact with the vascular system of the tree. As long as the host tree is alive so will the mistletoe grow and prosper.

Christmas customs, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, are an evolution that long ante-dated the

(Continued on next Page)

Christian era. This can be seen by the previous comments made concerning the legends of holly and mistletoe, but all of the many customs seem to be for the purpose of honoring a spirit or symbol held in higher respect than fellow man.

The first Christmas tree seems to be of German origin, dating from Boniface, an English missionary to Germany, who replaced a sacrifice to a sacred oak tree by a fir tree adorned in tribute to the Christ Child.

Some historians trace the custom of the lighted tree to Martin Luther, who attempted to reproduce the glory of a starry night by attaching some lighted candles to a tree to portray the reflection of the stars. While this was first referred to as "child's play," lights seem to have been accepted from 1700, used throughout all of Germany and then the custom crossed the Baltic sea to Finland. There the idea was accepted about 1800, then in Denmark ten years later and in Norway about 1830. From Scandinavia, the custom spread to France and England and then German immigrants brought the idea to America.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with the first Manger scene which dates from the year of 1200. He is also accredited with being the influence behind the modern Christmas carols since he and his followers celebrated Mass in the cave where the Manger was placed and sang hymns to the Christ Child. It was also here that palm fronds were used to decorate the Manger scene.

And today in Florida that same palm tree has gained widespread usage as a Christmas decoration. For a number of years folks in Central Florida, particularly in Lake County, have been organizing a campaign to carry forward a Christmas in Florida more in harmony with the native plants and weather of this State.

Their dream became a reality last year when Governor LeRoy Collins proclaimed the month of December as "Christmas Palm Tree Month in Florida". . . . in recognition of the desirability of emphasizing the use of Florida plant life and suitable greeting cards in the observance of the Christmas season.

It was felt by the sponsors of the above proclamation that the Bethlehem of long ago had palm trees, dates and coconuts and warm sunshine—similar to the climate in Florida—rather than the spruce or fir, or ice and snow commonly depicting Yuletide in America. And the group decided that the native trees and plants of Florida ought to be woven closely into the observance of the Birth of the Holy One.

More than a dozen native varieties of palms and hundreds of imported species thrive here. One native, the Sabal Palm, has been selected as the State tree because of its universal popularity, and the response from the people on using the palm as a Christmas tree and fronds for decorations insures that palms will become a Yule standby for years to come.



Bunches of mistletoe can be found more easily during the fall months after the leaves have fallen.

This year, the Christmas decorations will again be seen in many places throughout Florida. The cities and towns will be decked out in street lights and laurel wreath, the town's public buildings will have lights and candles in the windows and restaurants and stores will have small trees covered with angel hair, tinsel and Christmas lights and balls, and the Churches will have their manger scenes.

But this year, there will be some changes made as more persons will turn toward the materials of their particular locality for decorating their businesses and their homes.

Evergreens, palms, pines, branches with ripening fruit and gay blooming flowers will be widely used here in contrast to the spruce and fir trees and the manufactured replicas of wreaths and symbols of ice and snow. The homeowners of Florida have been finally convinced that there are many wild native plants that can be used effectively for this season of the year.

They'll find that there are other materials than can brighten up their homes at this time of the year, with items such as magnolia leaves that work well for screens and backgrounds and vines and plants with flexible stems will do fine for streamers. Pine cones will add contrast to the decorations, while the many dried seedpods of various plants will give accent to the decorative scheme.

Throughout the country, millions of dollars will be spent in purchasing materials to be used for Christmas decorations this year, but here in Florida, a short walk through the fields and forests—seeing Nature at its best—will reveal many unusual items that will add an inner warmth of Christmas Spirit to the Florida home this year in observance of the birth of the Christ Child. ●

AROUND THE STATE



Commission Photo by Jim Floyd

FLORIDA ARCHERS set a record high in the deer-kill department this year when a total of 40 whitetails were bagged during the special October archery hunts on the Eglin, Ocala, and Inverness Management Areas. Upper-left photo shows Adolph Finck, Niceville, Fla., with 130-pounder taken on the second day of the Eglin Hunt. Jack Fullbright, right, killed his 115 pound buck on the third day. First deer killed on Eglin was a 112-pounder by Bill Boyd, Blountstown, and Clyde Mulkey, Ocala, took the first Ocala Area honors with a 165-pound buck. The Inverness Area claimed "high score" with a total of 19 deer downed, Eglin registered a kill of 17, and Ocala's tally was four.



Commission Photo by Wayne Hook

FIRST BEAR to be killed this season was accomplished by Ray Williams, from Tampa. Ray bagged his "blackie" during the early special bear hunt on the Osceola Management Area, Baker County.



FLORIDA'S GOVERNOR LeRoy Collins, left, and his father, Marvin H. Collins, Tallahassee, give further proof of the Sunshine State's title of Bass Capital of the World, with a hefty string of 12 largemouth bass caught from a Leon County lake.



PHEASANTS AND CHUKARS have been added to Florida's "game list" this year, with the opening of the state's first private shooting preserves. This mixed bag of pheasants and chukars fell to the scattergunning of Ed Brantley and Ross Windom, St. Petersburg, at the Watson Shooting Preserve, Newberry, Fla.



This Florida hunter has every reason to smile. . . . His hunting luck has been good and he has good eating ahead.



Hunting Fun-

The choice is yours, — field, forest or marshland. Waterfowl, quail, turkey, deer, squirrel, deer, dove.



A favorite of the small-game hunter is the gray squirrel, found in abundance throughout the woodlands of the Sunshine State.

For many Florida hunters, handling dogs is the highlight of hunting — whether or not game bags are filled.





Quail hunting is a favorite with the shotgun clan. Two hunters get ready to flush a covey from hiding.



Around mid-day, when hunting is apt to be slow, many a Florida hunter likes to catch a few winks.

Among riflemen and shotgunners alike, the whitetail deer is the most popular of Florida's big-game species.



-Statewide

By EDMUND McLAURIN

Hunting the countless islands of the Everglades section is made easier by use of airboats — and offers plenty of variety.



The opening of pay-as-you-hunt shooting preserves in Florida this year, makes it convenient for hunters to enjoy the hunting of non-native pheasant.



1958-1959

HUNTING SEASON



MIGRATORY BIRDS

Species	Open Season	Daily Bag	Possession
RAIL (marsh hen) and GALLINULE	Sept. 13 thru Nov. 16	15	30
WOODCOCK	Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11	Sora rail-25	25
DOVE	*October 4 thru Nov. 2 and Nov. 27 thru Dec. 31	4	8
SNIPE	Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11	10	20
DUCK	Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11	8	8
GEESE	Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15	4**	8**
COOT	Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15	2	4
	Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15	10	10

*That part of Franklin Co. (Third District) east of State Road 30 and a line extending from the point where State Road 30 turns west to the water line and including all of Alligator Point shall be closed to the taking of doves during the Oct. 4 thru Nov. 2 portion of the dove season.

**Day's bag of duck may include only one wood duck and only one hooded merganser. Possession limit of wood duck is 2, possession limit hooded merganser is 1. The daily bag limit of ducks may not include more than (a) 2 canvasbacks, or (b) 2 redheads, or (c) 1 canvasback and 1 redhead. The possession limit of ducks may not include more than (a) 4 canvasbacks, or (b) 4 redheads, or (c) 4 in the aggregate of both canvasbacks and redheads. In addition to the limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is five, possession limit 10, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

Shooting hours — One-half hour before sunrise to sunset EXCEPT dove which may be taken only from 12-noon until sunset.

Hunting for migratory birds allowed every day during the open season in all districts except Nassau County where hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

GAME



QUAIL

Daily bag limit 10, no season's bag limit.

1st District: November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

2nd District: November 15 through February 1. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County which shall be CLOSED on Sunday and open on Monday.

3rd District: November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

4th District: November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

5th District: November 15 through February 1. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday, CLOSED at all other times.

TURKEY



Daily bag limit, 2; season bag limit 3.

1st District: November 15 through January 18, except counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Polk (south of State Road 60), and Hillsborough (south of U. S. Highway 92), where the open season will extend from November 15 through November 20. Hunting per-

LAWS

mitted every day. Pinellas County CLOSED.

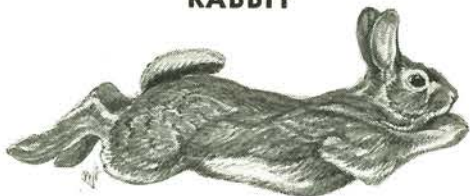
2nd District: November 15 through January 18. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County where Sundays shall be CLOSED and Mondays open. That portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18, and east of U. S. Highway 441 CLOSED at all times.

3rd District: November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL GOBBLER SEASON, Eglin Field, March 28 through April 5; ½-hour before sunrise to 12 noon.

4th District: November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day.

5th District: November 15 through January 18. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

RABBIT



Both cottontails and swamp rabbits are declared to be game animals. There is no closed season for the taking of rabbits, and no daily bag or possession limit.

A hunting license is required to take rabbits during the regular open season for game animals and birds.

Rabbits may be taken at night under special permit issued by the Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission when the animals are found to be damaging personal property.

DEER



Deer must have at least one antler measuring five inches in length.

Daily bag limit, 1; season bag limit, 2.

1st District: November 15 through January 4. Hunting permitted every day. Counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto, Polk (south of State Road #60), and Hillsborough (south of U. S. Highway #92) CLOSED.

2nd District: November 15 through January 4. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County where Sundays shall be CLOSED and Mondays open. SPECIAL SEASON in Gilchrist

County, November 15 through December 7; first six days open, Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times. That portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18 and east of U. S. Highway 441 CLOSED.

3rd District: November 15 through January 11. Hunting permitted every day. Okaloosa and Walton Counties open November 15 through November 30, and December 20 through January 4. Washington County and Holmes County CLOSED. Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties CLOSED except within Eglin Field and Blackwater Management Areas.

4th District: November 15 through January 4. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County CLOSED to the hunting of Key Deer.

5th District: November 15 through January 4. First six days open, December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

SQUIRREL



Daily bag limit, 10 gray, two fox; no season's bag limit.

1st District: November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

2nd District: November 15 through February 1. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday, CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County where Sundays shall be CLOSED and Mondays open.

3rd District: November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

4th District: November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

5th District: November 15 through February 1. First six days open, December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday, CLOSED at all other times.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

All dates shown are inclusive. Opening day, closing day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are open to hunting. Should any one of the above holidays fall on a Sunday, the Monday following such holiday will be open to hunting.

Bow and arrow are permitted for taking of game animals and game birds. Cross bows are not legal for taking game.

Shotguns must be limited to 3-shell capacity (magazine and chamber combined).

Sale of native game prohibited. No open season on doe deer, fawn deer, spotted or Axis deer, buck deer with antlers of less than 5 inches in length, cub bear, snow goose, swan, and non-game birds. Panther protected at all times.

Unprotected are English sparrow, crow, jackdaw, buzzard, skunk, flying squirrel, opossum, red and gray fox, bobcat, raccoon.



An average Jensen Savanna bass. These fish are full muscled and firm bodied. I am convinced a new World Record bass now swims in these small lakes.

THE LURE HIT THE WATER inches from a little opening in the marsh grass. I raised the rod tip and started a steady retrieve. A bass smashed into the plug and took to the air all in one electrifying moment. He jumped again and then again. Working carefully, I brought him to the side of the boat and led him into the net. I eased the hooks out and, just before I released him, I thought I caught a puzzled, bewildered look on the fish's face. I can't say I blame him, because the lure he hit was like no other I had ever seen, and its appearance in the water must have been enough to raise the hackle on any self-respecting bass.

Fishing should be for fun, but on this occasion, I was, also, working at my trade. I had been sent a revolutionary, new lure to test and, as usual, I chose the wonderful Jensen Savannas for the testing ground. When I unpacked the box of lures I was to use, I could hardly believe my eyes. It took me only 30 seconds to discover that these lures could really catch fishermen, regardless of their other qualities.

The plugs were made of clear plastic in a slow-sinking, spinning size. They had triangular shaped ridges molded in their sides vertically, placed just right so that even a slight movement of the lure caused a color bar to race madly back and forth thru the lure's body. The total effect was stunning. These lures came from Texas and were in five colors — red, orange, green, yellow, and blue. I almost wore them out playing with them.

SAVANNA

BY CHUCK SCHILLING

Next morning's sunrise found my wife and I on the Jensen Savannas. We rowed out on one of these beautiful lakes and rested while we basked in the natural beauty of this unique and wonderful place. At our backs, the night mists still shrouded the marsh, with the tall trees of the distant piney woods standing out like islands in a sea of clouds.

The water was mirror smooth, giving us a double vision of the scene before us. To the east, out over the Gulf Stream, cumulus clouds mounted in massive banks, towering to touch the edge of the fading night, while the rising sun turned their dark outlines to burnished gold.

Shafts of sunlight pierced the new day thru rifts in the clouds, probing like groping fingers, touching quickly and moving on. One of the light beams swept across the savannas and, like a maestro's baton, awoke from the sleeping marsh a response that soon swelled to a symphony of wildlife music.

At the south end of the lake, three sandhill cranes lifted on measured wing beat, rising 15 feet or so and then circling the lake, giving their deep-throated cry. As they flew, other sandhill cranes joined them, until a full 30 of these stately birds were circling and calling to the breaking day.

Suddenly, boat-tailed grackles were in position on the bending saw grass and cattail clumps, while red-winged blackbirds scolded from the myrtle thickets. Egrets and big blue herons began their daily routine, and, back in the marsh, a band of wood ibis flew to a shallow pond to begin their breakfast dance. A mother duck with seven ducklings put a V on the surface of the smooth water, all swimming in single file, and, like the bass undertone in a full orchestra, we both felt and heard the almost inaudible rumbling of a big, bull alligator.

A dragonfly kissed the water 50 feet from our boat, and a yearling bass made a futile leap at the winging insect, falling back to the water with a resounding smack, breaking the reflections of the lightening clouds and, also, breaking our early-morning reverie. We took up our oars and began our job of lure testing.

Being unbiased, unprejudiced, and completely objective are the first requisites for testing a lure, and that's what makes this kind of job difficult for me, because I am none of these things. I fell immediately into a trap of my own making.

WORKSHOP

The Jensen Savannas are a string of fresh water lakes ideal for bass fishing. This is where I tested the Texas lure, — a sensational fish-getter.

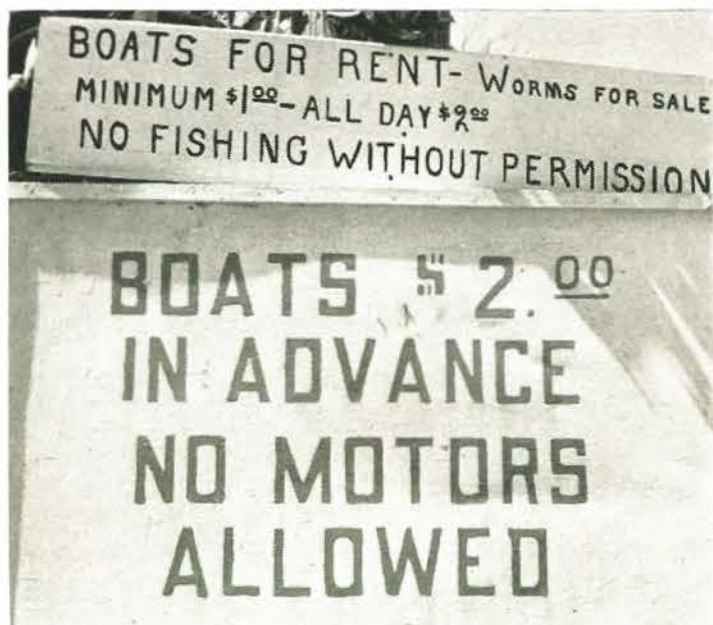
For years, I have fished with little except Spin-I-Diddees when using spinning or spincast tackle for bass. The technique for using Spin-I-Diddees is accurate casting, a long wait, and then a slow retrieve with frequent stops to let the lure float perfectly still. Even though the Texas lure was a sinker, I was using the same old, Spin-I-Diddee action. I took five fair bass in this manner, while my wife, using Spin-I-Diddees, took eight fish casting behind me. That ended the first morning.

I find I can be a lot more objective about fishing when I'm not doing it. At home that day, I endured the taunts of the better half and ignored her jeers at my "neon tube" lures, while I puzzled out a possible reason for the Texas lure's poor showing — not that outfishing a Spin-I-Diddee is an easy task for any lure — no, Sir!

Next morning, like a hound on a fresh trail, I single-mindedly shut out the technicolor, wildlife panorama around me and concentrated on fishing. Using my head for a change, I adjusted my fishing technique to the lure's built-in action. Casting close, I retrieved the lure steadily, just fast enough to produce a definite throb at the rod tip as the lure vibrated in a deep run.

Almost from the first cast, I began picking up fish. I soon found that keeping just 8 or 10 feet from the shore line, making long casts ahead of the boat, bringing the lure back parallel to the swamp's edge, paid off handsomely. Satisfied that I had now found the answer to the immediate problem, I spent the morning experimenting with the various colors. I found, as usual, that I liked any color just so it's yellow.

The Jensen Savannas are a string of fresh-water lakes running from Fort Pierce south to Jensen Beach. These lakes lie halfway between Highway No. 1 and the Indian River and are surrounded by a wide marsh area. They are one of Florida's most perfectly balanced bodies of fresh water. Seldom a year passes that several bass better than 15 pounds are not taken from



Access to the Jensen Savannas is thru Earl Castner's boat landing. Modern accommodations are available at Jensen Beach, five minutes away.

these lonely lakes. Bass better than 20 pounds have come out of this water, and I am convinced that bass big enough to set a new world's Record are today swimming in the Jensen Savannas.

These lakes are only a stone's throw from my home, and I have been fishing them for over 20 years. In all that time, there has been no perceptible change — something that can be said about very little of South Florida. I don't often write about the Jensen Savannas for three reasons.

These small lakes, strung thru wide, shallow marshes, just are not conducive to outboard motors, and both outboard motors and air boats are barred from these waters. I row my boat, paddle by canoe, or wade. My fellow Jensen Savanna anglers do the same. Most modern anglers are not willing to leave their kickers at home, so the Jensen Savannas are not for them.

These are not easy waters to fish. I have found thru the years that wading the shallow marshes and fishing the potholes with fly rod and Leggy Bugs produce the best results. Most anglers nowadays seem to have an aversion to putting their feet in lake water. I have learned the hard way that the deep, crystal-clear, spring-water lakes require long, accurate casting with light tackle before they pay off. Again, this is beyond the average angler's skill and capacity.

Last but far from least, I'm selfish enough to want to save these favorite lakes, unspoiled, for the few dedicated anglers who now use them, rather than have them defiled by crowds of potential litterbugs. In three days of recent fishing on the Jensen Savannas, I didn't spot one empty beer can. I'd like to keep it that way.

According to the directions I received, I was also

(Continued on Page 39)

To the 8,500 participants, the Christmas Bird Count is a highly competitive test of skill, luck, and endurance.

THE

By HORACE E. LOFTIN



Photo by Bill Hansen

IT'S NEAR MIDNIGHT. A dim light flickers from its hanging position above the little table, which is littered with coffee cups, a milk tin, a near-empty sugar sack and a pile of maps. Four men dressed in rough clothing and wearing two day's growths of beard are seated around the table, listening attentively to a burly individual who stands above them.

This man is their leader and they are his lieutenants. He quietly and efficiently issues his orders, pointing to their separate areas of attack on the maps. The men nod their heads in understanding. It is a good plan. The orders once issued, the men slip out into the blackness of the winter night, each to his own quarters.

The rendezvous takes place before dawn, the lieutenants meeting with their squads at the prearranged spots. Orders of the day are passed out. Then, over the cold, foggy pre-dawn air, the hoot of a barred owl is heard, and the parties stir as if to a signal. One man laughs aloud and others break the silence in low

The annual Bird Count is a national, competitive, wildlife event.

Last year's high score went to Florida for the 193 different birds recorded at Cocoa.

but excited voices. They climb into vehicles or strike out through the brush on foot.

The Big Day has begun again.

The Big Day is perhaps the biggest annual organized wildlife event in Florida, and on a national scale the biggest in the United States.

What is it? To some people who don't understand it, it's a "darned dicky-bird hunt." To those who participate in it, the Big Day is an exciting day in the field, requiring the stamina, competitive spirit, woods sense and common sense of a bear hunt. Officially, it is the Mid-Winter Bird Census, perhaps better known as the "Audubon Christmas Count."

The purported object of the Christmas Count is to survey the wintering bird population of a tremendous area stretching from the Mexican border to the Arctic Circle, which is done and done well. But to most of the participants — some 8,500 of them last year

Most abundant of the 160 species of waterbirds found in Florida, is the American Coot, with some single day winter counts in a specific area totaling more than 20,000.

Photo by Wallace Hughes



The different species of birds that live in or visit the Sunshine State number more than 470. A conspicuous Florida resident easily observed along the coastal marshes is the Boat-tailed Grackle.

BIG DAY

— the Christmas Count boils down to being a highly competitive test of skill, luck and endurance, in short, a day of high sport.

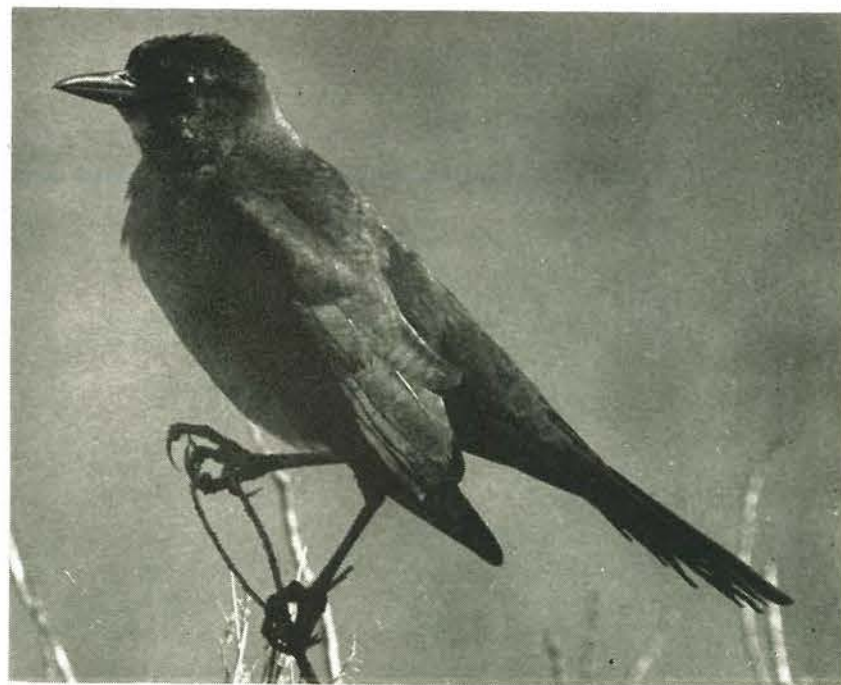
You see, everybody wants to be on a winning team. What state will lead in numbers of different kinds of birds seen? Will Pensacola beat Jacksonville this year? Will Joe find a rare migrant that Tom misses? Most important, will you break your own record for number of different species seen in one day and will you add birds that you've never seen before?

If Florida is your state, you're on a winning team already. Last year a Christmas Count out of Cocoa, working within the prescribed circle of 15 miles diameter, turned up a grand total of 193 different kinds of birds seen on one mid-winter day (Dec. 27), the greatest number of species ever racked up by one party in the 56-year history of the Christmas Count.

You may have guessed it: Florida's chief competitor for first place in the Christmas Count is California, and for several years San Diego led the list. Facing this challenge, the Cocoa birdmen gathered forces from all around, laid plans with the cunning of geurrilla warriors, and attacked the birds from all sides. It has been said that on the Big Day near Cocoa it's hard to see the birds for the bird watchers. At any rate, Cocoa captured the national honors for Florida, and has maintained and increased her lead since the first victory.

Cocoa's record last year of 193 species (from 44,-760 individual birds counted) was far ahead of the nearest contenders' scores: San Diego, Calif., and Laguna Atacosa, Tex., with 165 species each.

The Cocoa boys are not about to rest on their laurels, however. They are aiming at a greater goal. Writes the leader of the Cocoa count: "Not only were 193 species recorded in Cocoa (on the count day),



Commission photos by Wallace Hughes

but 10 additional species were seen in that area during the week, indicating that over 200 species were present in the 15-mile diameter circle at Christmastime. Some day, with a combination of ideal weather and exceptional flights, and an even greater number of keen, energetic, experienced observers, the 200 mark may be achieved on the Big Day."

Other Florida Count areas are in the big time, too. Only eleven out of a total of 565 counts last year recorded more than 140 different species seen; of these 11, four were in Florida. (California placed second again, with three areas above 140 species.) Coot Bay, in the Everglades National Park, turned in a list of 152 species. There were 144 species seen on the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge count and 142 from Panacea (near Apalachicola).

Now, it must be admitted that participants of the Big Day in Florida have it soft. Just like humans, the birds enjoy their winter comfort. So they flock to

(Continued on next Page)



The Canada Goose has an almost exclusive Florida listing with bird-counters in the Northwest areas. Approximately 20,000 Canada geese now winter in the St. Marks-Panacea area.

(Continued from preceding Page)

our fine tourist climate, where bird watchers clad in sportshirts (well, maybe light sweaters) can count them off in comparative ease. The true glory of the Christmas Count belongs to those who turn in the lowest numbers of species. I mean the counts from Alaska, Manitoba, South Dakota, places like that. Here's what a count reporter from Yorktown, Saskatchewan, has to say about the Big Day up north:

"Thirty-four degrees below zero is tolerable when calm, but with the wind at 15 m.p.h., one's face went numb if one faced the wind for more than a minute. One party spent two hours shovelling its way out of a drift. It was too cold to go for help from the nearest farmer two miles away. Members of both parties had frozen ears and cheeks."

This Yorktown count, held on Dec. 26, reported 15 species of ice-resistant birds. Parties in Alaska, New Hampshire and Montana tied for low place—and perhaps low temperatures!—with seven species each.

There must be something compelling about a sport that will take a man out in weather like this—something like the compulsion that makes a duck hunter squat in a wet hole on a marsh while a frigid wind cuts through his clothes and to his marrow. Well,

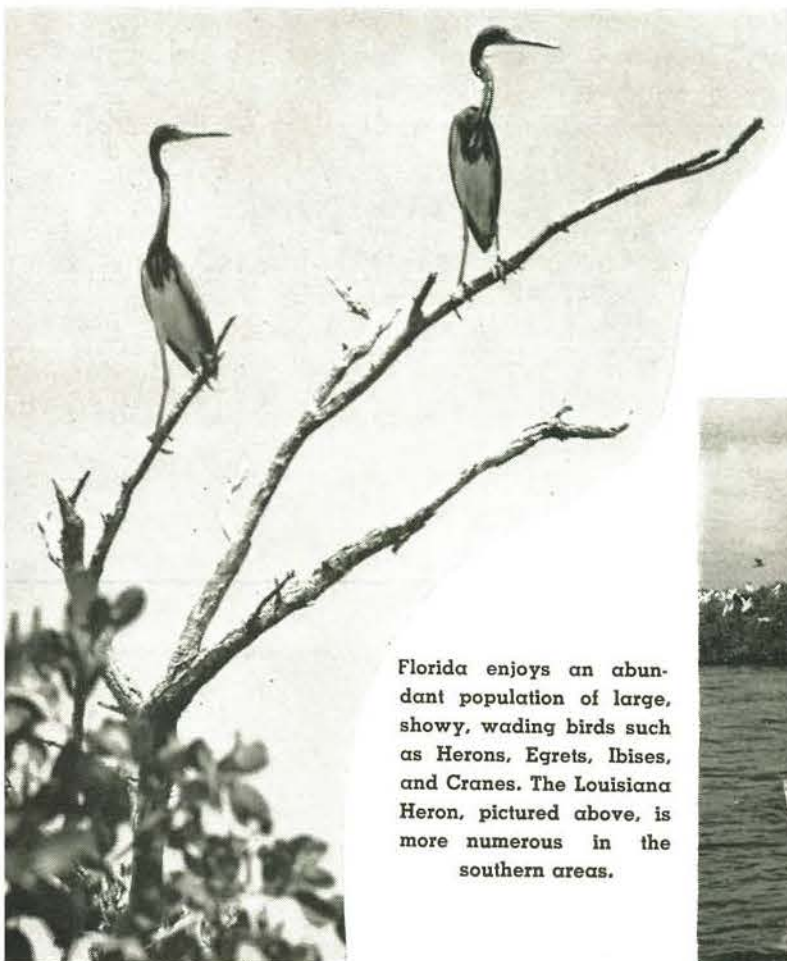
that's the point. This birdwatching is a sport, a great sport, in spite of all the jokes that are cracked about it (and which bird watchers enjoy). It takes luck, skill, patience and all the other attributes of a hunter or fisherman to be a good birdman. Indeed, the bird watcher is a hunter; the chief difference between the bird watcher and the bird shooter is that the bird watcher learns more about his game. (Incidentally, it's a pretty safe bet that the bird shooter who is also a bird watcher will bring down more birds, since he will understand their habits to a greater degree.)

There are well over 300 different kinds of birds to be seen in Florida. The good birdman learns to recognize a majority of these on sight, knows where to look for them and when. Even if you have been hunting in Florida since you were too small to see over a palmetto clump, this bunch of bird watchers can show you exciting things in the Florida outdoors that you have missed in a hundred trips to the woods.

You're not convinced? Then give it a try. There will be some 25 separate Christmas counts in Florida this year, from Pensacola to Jacksonville to Key West. You'll be welcome on any of them as one of the approximately 350 participants in the Florida Big Day. Most of them take place during the week just before or just after Christmas.

Your local Audubon or conservation club should be able to put you in touch with the nearest Christmas count leader. If you can't locate a local organization, drop a line to Russ Mason, Florida Audubon Society, Maitland; or to Horace Loftin, c/o *Florida Wildlife*. They will be glad to put you on the right contact for your nearest count.

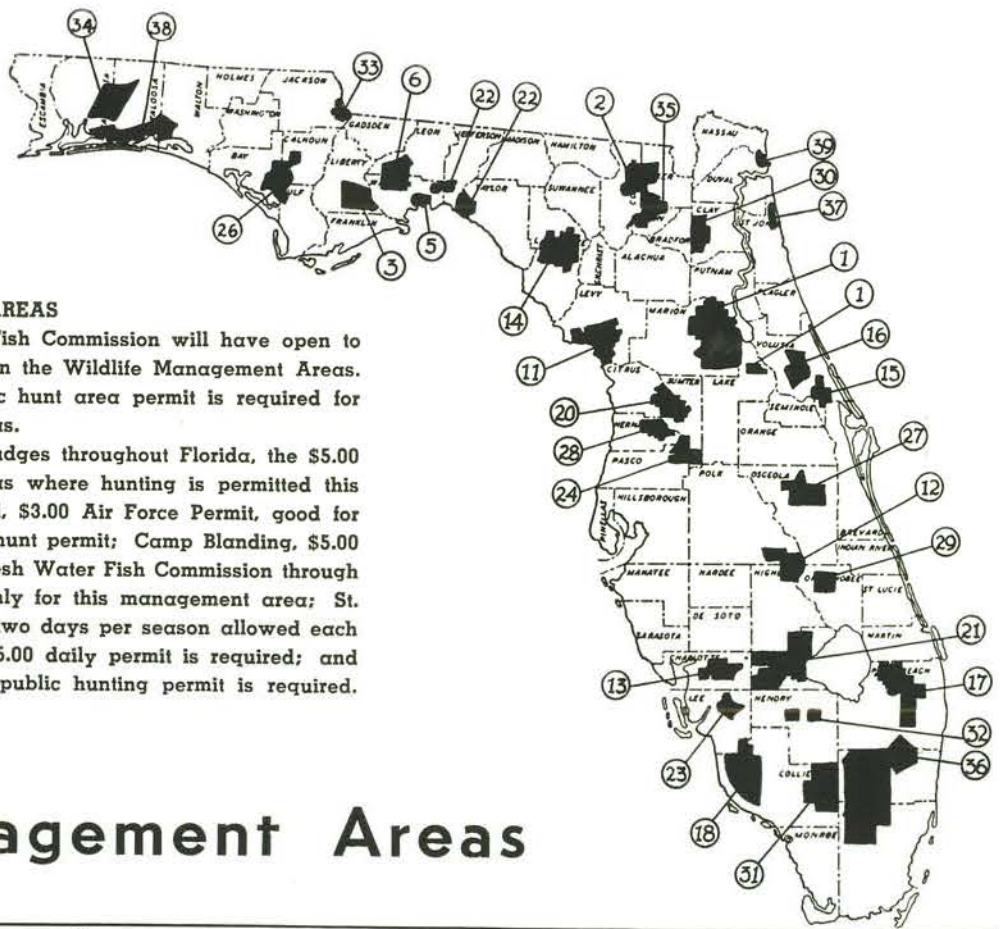
One word of advice: if you go, get lots of sleep the night before. You'll be plenty busy on the Big Day. ●



Florida enjoys an abundant population of large, showy, wading birds such as Herons, Egrets, Ibises, and Cranes. The Louisiana Heron, pictured above, is more numerous in the southern areas.



Guided boat tours to the southern bird rookeries provides the naturalist a chance to observe with ease, masses of Ibis, Pelican, Egret, Heron and Roseate Spoonbill. Their great assemblage for nesting activities usually starts around mid-December.



MANAGEMENT AREAS

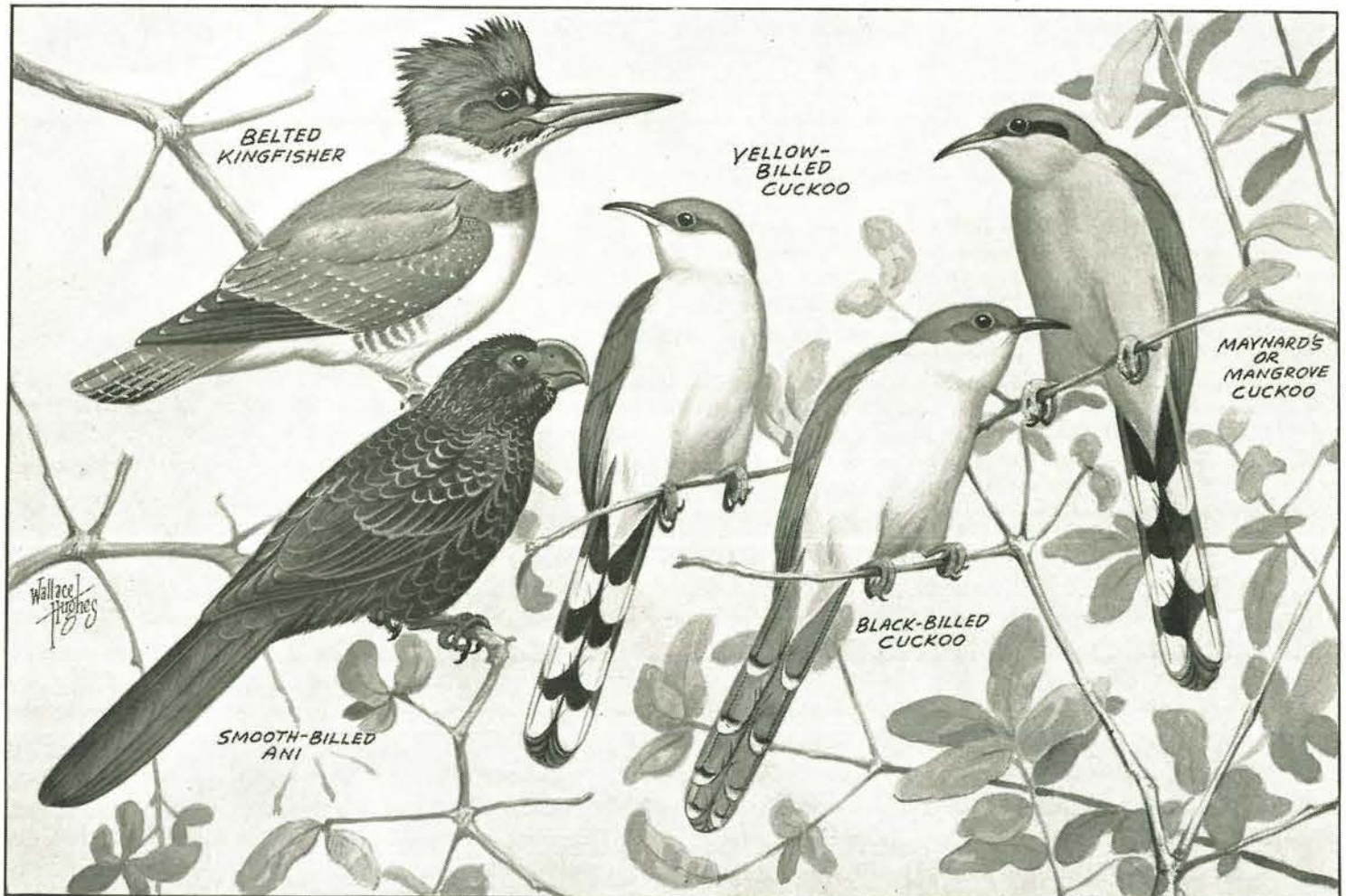
This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting a total of 3,495,900 acres of land within the Wildlife Management Areas. In addition to regular hunting license, a public hunt area permit is required for those desiring to hunt on the management areas.

Available from the offices of the County Judges throughout Florida, the \$5.00 permit opens most of the 30 management areas where hunting is permitted this season. Exceptions are as follows: Eglin Field, \$3.00 Air Force Permit, good for the season, instead of the regular \$5.00 public hunt permit; Camp Blanding, \$5.00 special season permit issued by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission through the County Judges in the vicinity and good only for this management area; St. Marks, \$3.00 permit is required for each of the two days per season allowed each hunter; and the C. M. Webb Area where a \$5.00 daily permit is required; and the Everglades Management Area where NO public hunting permit is required.

Wildlife Management Areas

Name	Acres Open to Hunting	Acres Closed To Hunting	Ownership	County
Blackwater (34)	85,000		Florida Forest Service	Santa Rosa, Okaloosa
Eglin Field (38)	390,000	70,000	U. S. Air Force	Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton
Roy S. Gaskin (26)	118,300		Private	Gulf, Bay, Calhoun
Liberty (3)	133,120		U. S. Forest Service	Liberty
Apalachee (33)	6,000	1,000	U. S. Corps of Engineers	Jackson
Leon-Wakulla (6)	67,000		U. S. Forest Service	Leon, Wakulla
St. Marks (5)	3,000	62,000	U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Wakulla
Aucilla (22)	110,000		Private	Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor
Osceola (2)	92,000		U. S. Forest Service	Columbia, Baker
Steinhatchee (14)	206,500	18,500	Private	Dixie, Lafayette
Lake Butler (35)	89,000	7,000	Private	Union, Baker, Columbia
Camp Blanding (30)	56,000	14,000	State Armory Board	Clay
Guano River (37)		10,000	Private	St. Johns
Little Talbot Island (39)		250	Florida Park Service	Duval
Gulf Hammock (11)	100,000	20,000	Private	Levy
Ocala (1)	203,680	46,280	U. S. Forest Service	Marion, Putnam, Lake
Tomoka (16)	44,000	6,000	Private	Volusia
Sumter-Citrus (20)	20,000		Private	Sumter, Citrus
Croom (28)	17,000		Fla. Forest Service	Hernando
Richloam (24)	63,000		Fla. Forest Service & Private	Hernando, Pasco, Sumter
Farmton (15)	60,000		Private	Volusia, Brevard
Holopaw (27)	23,000		Private	Osceola
Avon Park (12)	108,000		U. S. Air Force	Highlands, Polk
Okeechobee (29)	16,000		Private	Okeechobee
Cecil M. Webb (13)	57,000	5,000	Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.	Charlotte
Fisheating Creek (21)	100,000	175,000	Private	Glades
J. W. Corbett (17)	90,000		Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.	Palm Beach
Lee (23)	40,000		& Private	
Devil's Garden (32)	40,000	18,000	Private	Lee
Big Cypress (31)	133,000		Private	Hendry
Collier (18)	300,000	50,000	Private	Collier
Everglades (36)	725,300		Private	Collier
			Central & Southern Florida Flood	Palm Beach, Broward,
			Control District	Dade
TOTALS	3,495,900	502,750		
Grand Total	3,998,650			

FLORIDA BIRDLIFE



Maynard's Cuckoo, *Coccyzus minor*.

Along the mangrove coast on the Gulf side of the peninsula and southward into the Keys, Maynard's Cuckoo is at home. By nature this species, also called Blackeared Cuckoo or Rain Crow, is shy and elusive.

Frequently the observer will see the bird only as a brownish sprite slipping through the dense tangle of mangrove that forms their chosen habitat.

In most parts of their range, they inhabit the same vicinity the year around. Those found in Florida are exceptions to the rule, moving into the state for the nesting season and out again when those duties are completed for the year. The species is essentially a tropical one, ranging southward from Florida through the West Indies and into portions of South and Central America.

The birds of the Keys and the lower Peninsula usually arrive sometime after the middle of March. Be-

fore the end of September the last stragglers have departed.

Maynard's Cuckoo is not much of a nest builder. A loose collection of twigs in a mangrove thicket is the extent of efforts toward homemaking. The clutch consists most commonly of two eggs, greenish blue in color.

Maynard's Cuckoo is an avid hunter of insects, consuming quantities of caterpillars as well as an occasional moth, grasshopper, and spider.

In the adult, the black "ear" spots and the grayish crown are good marks of identification. The buffy color of the underparts of both young and adult birds immediately separates Maynard's from the other cuckoos.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*.

In outline the yellow-billed Cuckoo is a slender bodied bird with a conspicuously long tail. The plum-

age is brownish on the back with a somewhat metallic tinge. The reddish brown primaries show well when the bird is in flight. The blackish tail feathers have large white spots on the ends. Under exceptionally favorable conditions for observation, or when a specimen is in hand, the yellow eyelids and the yellow lower mandible are features to watch for.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nesting range is a large one, extending over the eastern part of North America from the lower portions of Manitoba and New Brunswick southward into Florida. Only rarely is this bird found wintering in southern Florida and most members of the species spend the colder months in South America.

As are its close relatives, the Black-billed Cuckoo and Maynard's Cuckoo, this bird is extremely retiring and elusive. The rolling, guttural call is more familiar, perhaps,

than the bird itself. The river swamps and hammocks comprise the usual haunts.

Caterpillars, even the very hairy species, comprise a very considerable portion of the diet. Even the tent caterpillar, a creature seemingly shunned by most other birds, is eaten with gusto by the cuckoo.

All parts of Florida host the yellow-bill during the summer months. Most of the migrants arrive during April and by late October all but the relatively few wintering members of the clan have departed for the main wintering grounds.

A loose platform of twigs holds the pale greenish-blue, unspotted eggs. Three or four is the usual clutch although as many as six have, on rare occasions, been noted in a nest.

Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.*

In general body form and appearance, the black-billed Cuckoo rather closely resembles its yellow-billed relative. The Black-billed is slightly smaller in average measurements, with a smaller bill which, as the common name indicates, is completely black in color. The tail lacks the prominent white markings that characterize the yellow bill.

This species occurs as a migrant throughout the state but apparently does not nest here. Northern Georgia appears to mark the southernmost area of its nesting range. The birds winter in South America.

Now and again, the eggs of the Black-billed Cuckoo may be deposited in the nests of other birds. This characteristic of behavior is much less highly developed than it is in the related European Cuckoo.

The voice of the black-bill has been described as a long series of evenly spaced soft notes, uniform in pitch, with the quality of a low whistle.

As with other members of the clan the food consists almost entirely of insect forms. The destructive tent caterpillar is taken in quantity.

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani.*

Well into the 1930's the Smooth-billed Ani, a truly tropical species, was known only as an accidental visitor to the state. It has now become firmly established in the Lake Okeechobee area and elsewhere in and about Hendry County. This bird is abundant in the West Indies and in portions of South America. Records of individuals and small bunches were recorded from Florida from the early part of the 1890's but apparently the species did not become established until recent years.

The black plumage, with metallic purple and greenish reflections, is similar to that of the full feathered male boat-tailed grackle. The resemblance ends there, however. The upper portion of the Ani's bill sports a large curved ridge giving the bird a most unique and grotesque appearance. The tail feathers are broadened at the tips, an additional aid to identification.

The smooth-billed Ani shows a preference for the open country. They are not infrequently seen in close association with herds of livestock. In other portions of its range the bird may sometimes be seen picking ticks off the backs of cattle. This habit is commemorated in the scientific name of the species, *Crotophaga*, from the Greek, meaning

tick-eater. Insects of various kinds make up most of the diet.

The nest is a bulky affair, being a collection of sticks, weeds, leaves and grasses, frequently located near the ground in small trees and tangles of brush and vines. The usual clutch consists of from 5 to 7 eggs, chalky in appearance and of a greenish blue color without spots or other markings.

Belted Kingfisher, *Megasceryle alcyon.*

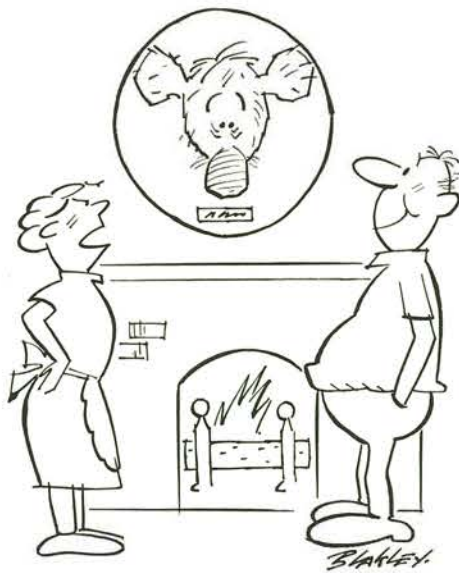
Its wide distribution, striking appearance, and the loud rattling call are among the things that make the Belted Kingfisher one of the more widely known birds of the continent. In Florida it is a common resident throughout the year. There is apparently a shifting of population with the seasons, the species being more abundant in the northern half of the state during the summer and in the southern part during the winter.

In its nesting habits, the Kingfisher is among the few birds that dig a burrow. Clay or sand banks are usually selected. Although it is far from a common occurrence, Kingfishers have been reported as nesting in stump and tree cavities. Howell comments on the lack of suitable banks for nest burrows as the probable cause for the seasonal shift from southern to northern parts of the state.

The Kingfisher is one of the few species in which the female is more conspicuously colored than the male. Both are blue-gray and white in general over-all coloration. In addition the female sports brown flanks and breastband, lacking in the male.

All of the Kingfisher's food is captured from the water. The bird may frequently be seen hovering over the surface of pond, stream, or marsh, waiting for the opportunity to strike an intended victim. The sudden headlong dive is spectacular and usually productive.

A great variety of smaller fishes form the bulk of the diet. Frogs, crawfish, and insects are other items frequently on the menu. ●



"If you ask me, I think it would look better
IN the fireplace."

HANDICAPPED BY CHOICE

(Continued from Page 17)

frosting to an already delectable cake.

The nature of the whitetail lends itself admirably to hunting with bow and arrow. Highly intelligent and readily adaptable to changes in habitat and the intrusion of man and his activities, the deer can and does exist within the city limits of some of America's largest metropolitan centers. Here is a hunting ground where a gun would be dangerous in the extreme. Yet some hunting could be enjoyed with the bow with a maximum of safety.

The precise nature of the bow's attraction for modern sportsmen is difficult to define. Certainly archery can never become as coldly efficient as gun hunting in cropping any region's deer production. But somehow the bow seems to satisfy more fully the hunter's ingrained urge for more active and personal participation in the chase.

To the states of Wisconsin and Michigan is generally conceded the credit as leaders in the field of popularizing archery hunting. Wisconsin, for example, as early as 20 years ago issued permits to 600 deer-minded archers for a fall hunt. It was slim pickings that season for the bowmen succeeded in downing only six animals. The scraggly ration of 1:100 against tagging a whitetail with an arrow reflects mainly the lack of experience in the then newly revived sport. By 1945 the same state's bracing days of fall saw 3,500 archers in the field looking for deer. During that round roughly 1 in 23 of the bow and arrow fans were able to put meat in the pot.

Because of the obvious interest in archery hunting in Florida, expressed by numerous individuals and the earlier state clubs, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission hopped on the band wagon some six seasons back.

The popular Ocala National Forest, one of Florida's truly good whitetail producing areas, was the



Just as the gun-hunter needs a variety of ammunition for the different type game being sought, the archer carries a selection of arrows designed for various phases of bow and arrow hunting.

scene of the initial tryout. Not a buck fell to the bowyers that first season. But failure to make a kill has never been a major factor where the archer is concerned. The yarns that were spun around the arrow nockers' camp fires were wonderful to hear. Close shots and long that would surely have downed Old Craggy Antlers except that . . .

The followers of Ike Walton have nothing at all on R. Hood's boys. Any archer worth his bow string can explain with gusto and conviction why he missed connections on any particular hunt. Any listener, no matter how dubious over the budding phase of Florida's newly revived sport, could help but catch a bit of the enthusiasts fever. Always there is the underlying, optimistic thought — expressed or understood — that the evening hunt, or tomorrow morning's, or next season's will surely bring a trophy.

The bowmen's response and the enthusiasm expressed over the opportunity to take to the field with the possibility of bagging a trophy was heartening to the state's wildlife specialists. Their hunters' attitude and conduct afield was enthusiastically

acclaimed even by some standers-by whose experience with hunters in the past had left them with a somewhat jaundiced outlook on woods ramblers in general.

During the second season of Florida's era of bow and arrow revival, part of the Eglin Field Management Area was opened in addition to the original Ocala grounds. During this second run, two stalkers on the Ocala capped their efforts with a nice whitetail apiece. Three of the arrows loosed during the Eglin hunt drove home to anchor West Florida bucks.

And so it has gone for the past few years. Each fall sees more outdoorsmen discovering the thrills, the added punch, of hunting with the primitive weapon. And with the experience that comes through trial and error the success ratio can be expected to climb. In addition to deer, a variety of other game has been brought down by the arrow men in Florida. Of hogs there has been a substantial number. Many of the successful porker busters claim the swamp rooters, tough and evil dispositioned, make for as much sport or more than the rack toting venison.

At least as difficult to bring to bag as the wariest of whitetail buck is the wild turkey. Judging from the hunter kill reports, archers find them a lot tougher problem than the deer. Any experienced gobbler chaser can tell you the turk is plenty long on brains. Besides, he's a much smaller target.

Even squirrels have been brought down in very considerable numbers. To see a bushytail drilled squarely through the head from 20 yards out is enough to make most non-archers wonder if maybe they haven't misjudged the capabilities of the ancient weapon.

One of the greatest benefits to be gained from bow and arrow hunting is the change in values over those experienced by the gun hunter. Of actual bagging of game, the bowyer is certain to find himself trailing far behind. In experiences afield, adven-

tures if you like, the bowman finds himself way out in the lead.

At heart, perhaps, the archer is something of a philosopher, gaining much more from the contemplation of the timbered ridges, the swamps, and fields than the usual "hurry up, shoot something and go home" gunner.

Quiet stalking to get within reach of his intended game, the intervals of quiet waiting, give him the opportunity and the time to study his surroundings and his quarry. Even though he should later take up his gun again, his archery experiences should make any outdoorsman a better hunter.

From the standpoint of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, as well as other progressive wildlife management agencies, the growing popularity of archery is an encouraging sign. For one thing, it indicates that our hunters are taking to the field more with the idea of having a pleasant interlude in the outdoors than with the thought that they must bag game to make the trip a success. With increasing hunting pressures at every hand, this is a heartening trend. The game supply will certainly hold up better to the archer with the inherent handicaps of his equipment than it ever could to even half or a quarter of the number of gun hunters.

Bow hunters could be allowed to hunt refuges and breeding grounds without injuring the basic stock in the least. Often these places carry a surplus of game but it is not always practical to capture the surplus for restocking or to allow gunning to reduce the overpopulation. The recreation afforded archers is all out of proportion to the actual take of game.

In more populated areas, or in places where game stocks are not sufficient to withstand gun hunting, the bow can be used with both safety to humans and with little or no chance of the game being shot out. It's the nearest thing the wildlife men know to eating your cake and having it too. ●

dog chatter

By GEORGE CROWLEY

"BUY A PUP and your money will buy love unflinching that cannot lie." There's no reason to believe that when Kipling wrote those words many years ago he was thinking of Christmas. But when we think of the many people, children and adults alike, whose Christmas Day will be made merrier through the gift of a puppy, we will realize again that Kipling's words still ring true.

Perhaps those who are lucky enough to receive a pup for Christmas will not know for some time that their gift represents "love unflinching that cannot lie." At first, they may be more impressed by their puppy's cute appearance, by its sharp little eyes, its playful manner. A dog's companionship and loyalty become more apparent as he matures through the years. It is when the frolicsome Christmas puppy grows into the faithful family friend, the guardian of the household, the good companion of one's lonely hours, that we fully realize that the words, "Man's Best Friend," cannot be considered an idle phrase.

It has been said that the dog is the most adaptable of all creatures, that he has assumed different shapes, sizes and temperaments to fit himself to the varying needs of his masters. But every dog has one thing in common, be he large or small. It is explained in this way: "He is born our friend; while his



eyes are still closed, already he believes in us; even before his birth, he has given himself to man."

Perhaps all of us can learn a lesson from the dog's inherent honesty and devotion, a lesson especially appropriate for Christmas, 1958.

Doggy Short Snorts

TIP FOR NIGHT HUNTERS — Many valuable coon - and foxhounds are killed on the highways at night during the hunting season. Some of this loss, at least, can be prevented by attaching a strip of "Scotchlite" tape around the dog's collar. This strip reflects the lights of an approaching car and makes the dog visible to the driver.

DEAD DOG — "Shane," their St. Bernard dog mascot, is not as dead as he sometimes appears. Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity members at Ohio State University say. He just likes to sleep on his back with all four paws up in the air.

WHAT A GAL, LAL — So you say your dog is so smart she's almost human — practically talks, but, can she write her name? Lal can. Lal is a three-year-old blue roan cocker spaniel owned by Harold McCarthy of South Yarra, Australia. Holding chalk in her teeth, Lal spells out her name on a blackboard. Not only that, but she can draw. Although she is a lady, her favorite drawing is a tree.

GOGGLE-EYED SANDY — Canine travelers insist on riding with their head out of the car window. Fred Sistare of Rockland, Me., outfitted his ten year old dog sandy with a pair of goggles to protect the dogs eyes.

HIS BEST PALS — Being a dog lover, James J. Cafferty, a postman in New Bedford, Mass., loads up on dog biscuits as well as mail each morning. A postal employee for 13 years, and a carrier for three — with no bites.



FLORIDA CLUB NEWS

Federation Notes

By H. R. WILBER, President

THE FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S Clubs' Awards Program for 1958 will close in December. Available for local club presentations will be gold medals and certificates covering three awards. All clubs wishing to participate must notify Florida Wildlife Federation Headquarters at 112 West Indiana Avenue, DeLand, of their intention to do so and submit a request for medals and certificates to be used by their club. There will be no obligation on the part of the local club except that the Federation desires to know who received the awards and as much about why as possible.

Local awards must be designated and donated in the month of December, and it is desired by the Federation and the sponsor that as much publicity be given the awards presentation ceremony as possible. Local club awards for 1958 cover three fields: (1) Outstanding conservationist of the area, (2) Outstanding adult guidance of Jr. Conservation effort, (3) Outstanding teacher conservation program.

The regional awards and state awards will be chosen as last year by a state committee meeting early in January and the Governor's Awards Banquet will be held as usual in February. Both regional and state awards will cover eight categories. The banquet this year will be held at the Floridan Hotel, where the Federation received such fine cate during the annual meeting. The folder covering the annual Sportsmen's Clubs Awards Program has been mailed to all Florida clubs twice this year. Any federated clubs or nonfederated clubs of sportsmen or any other type club with conservation committees functioning desiring more of the folders explaining the program may obtain same by writing the Federation office.

The Awards Program has proven

to be the outstanding conservation achievement of the last several years in that it has caused the formation of various groups of a co-operative manner dealing with conservation over the state. For instance, the Florida Conservation Council, the State Interagency Conference, the State Water Resources Congress, all of which are pursuing successfully programs of co-operative nature previously pioneered by the Governor's Awards Program.

This will be the last call for your co-operation and the last offer of presenting your clubs with gold medals on the part of the Federation because time has run out.

State Water Resources Meeting

During the Federation's annual meeting, the State Water Resources Department held a program planning meeting. This planning group arranged to hold the first Florida Water Resources Congress at the University of Florida, February 12 and 13, 1959, under the direction of John W. Wakefield, Director of the State Department of Water Resources, and implemented by John E. Miklos, Publicity Service Training Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee. The program is designed to give: (1) information, (2) stimulation, (3) participation, (4) implementation, (5) action (legislation), concerning wise use of Florida's water resources over a long term. The meeting will convene Thursday, February 12 at 10:00 AM and again at 1:00 PM. The agencies responsible for water resource study, development, and control will report to the public on what has been done and what they think needs to be done. At 3:00-5:00 PM Thursday and 9:00 AM-11:30 AM Friday, all people attending the conference will be divided among eight working committees, each with a chairman well-known in a particular field of com-

mittee discussion. Here, in the committees, the public can talk back to the experts. Here is where you the public can tell us how you want your resources managed. The eight committees involved are as follows:

1. Florida's Water Resource Policy.
(Review and recommendations for changes of basic policies.)
2. Florida's Water Resource Administration.
(Federal, state, district, county or combinations.)
3. Competitive Uses of Water Resources.
(Should there be any order of preference?)
4. Financing Water Resource Development.
(How should costs be distributed? How can sound financing be assured?)
5. Water Rights and Water Laws.
(Definitions, legal controls, legislation.)
6. Control of Water Quality.
(Water pollution, salt water infiltration, by Dr. H. R. Wilber, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation.)
7. Water Resources Research Needs.
(What do we need to know tomorrow to answer today's questions?)
8. Water Resources Legislation.
(Review of recommendations of other seven committees and legislation needed to implement them.)

From 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Friday, February 13, the committees will report their findings and recommendations to the general assembly and the period 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM has been set aside for summary and introduction of resolutions if such are desired.

Every group in the State of Florida whose interests in any way relate to the use of Florida's water resources should plan to have large delegations in attendance at this congress in order that understanding and co-operation between all groups may result in progress in the wise use of this facility. A banquet with an outstanding speaker will be held at dinner time Thursday night.

The amount of the registration fee will be announced through every means of publicity preceding this meeting, and such fee will amount probably to between \$5.00 and \$10.00.

The business-like way in which John Wakefield, the Director of the Department of Water Resources is attacking this most important problem in the State of Florida is gratifying to all who are familiar with his work and demands that the public make itself conscious of the possibilities of achievement which this department is presenting.

Reminders on Legislation

To the Florida Federation Clubs, Headquarters sends this reminder: You have received all the resolutions accepted by the directors at the annual meeting during October in the hope that your club would adopt the policy as laid down by the directors and bring pressure upon your local legislators for the passage of the complete legislative program as presented. All Florida clubs, whether federated or not, will receive the Federation's legislative program in full before the legislature convenes in the spring that you may personally contact your representative and senator and continue to remind them by mail of the desires of you and your constituents. Our number one legislative request will be for an Enabling Act, (2) a universal fishing license, (3) pesticide and noxious weed control program, (4) water quality control legislation, (5) state water traffic control program, (6) co-ordinating legislation for salt water fishing interests and so forth in accordance with all resolutions which you have previously received. This is a general reminder that the first of the year is upon us and the legislative session is just around the corner—NOW IS THE TIME.

Water Access and Traffic Safety

The President of the Federation was, on October 15th, elevated to the Chairmanship of the Water Access and Traffic Safety Advisory

Committee, it having been necessary for the previous chairman to resign. The next meeting will be held November 24 in Tallahassee. Any sportsman's club or other organization having any presentations which they desire to make to this committee are welcome to be heard at any and all sessions. The Regional Representatives and their addresses are as follows:

Dr. H. R. Wilber, 515 North Amelia Street, DeLand

Charles R. McCarthy, Florida Development Commission, Tallahassee

Julian R. Alford, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee

R. C. Bannerman, Jr., State Road Department, Tallahassee

James C. Moore, 2204 6th, Palmetto, 1st District

William L. Graham, 203 N.E. First Street, Box 123, Gainesville, District 2

Walter E. Davis, 10 Keys Court, Pensacola, District 3

C. B. Jack Wirt, 800 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, District 4

Frank Murphy, Orlando Sentinel, Orlando, District 5

Roland Baggett, State Road Department, Tallahassee

Any communications concerning desired water access sites in your region should be referred to a regional committee member listed above before January 1st, and, if possible, before November 24th. The committee cannot promise the placement of access points but will promise to study every request as to its need as related to other means of access already available or the need of repair or enlargement of already existing facilities.

The basic law required concerned with the amount to be charged for the registration of all boats over 16 ft. and powered by outboard motors above 7½-10 h.p., the matter of enforcement and the making of rules and regulations to be enforced will be formulated by the Attorney General's office and submitted to the next Legislature by this committee,

the Governor's office, and with the blessing of the Federation, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and all and every other organization possible to inform as regards the desirability of this law. The new law will be based on the projected law not of the Federal Government but as prepared by representatives of the various 49 United States at the Council of States concerned over a four-month period with creating a type law more or less universal in content which will be satisfactory to the Secretary of the Treasury and a Congress of the United States in conjunction with a National Boating Act recently passed by Congress. It should be known by all interested groups that Congress made no attempt to usurp state rights but that it set a deadline of April 1, 1960, after which date, safety regulations and enforcement will be taken over by the Federal Government at the state's expense should it be possible that any state failed to set up satisfactory working arrangements of its own through legislative act before that date.

These laws will tend to be regulatory rather than punitive it being the thought of the Advisory Committee that regulation and prevention supersedes the idea of punishment for unregulated boat traffic depredations. It is the plan of the committee at the present time to execute the plan through agencies already existing in state government rather than creating any new departments at all unless it be a Water Traffic Board of the State of Florida, whose power it would be to create rules and regulations governing varying and changing conditions by geographical location, time variances, traffic conditions, etc. This board would produce rules and regulations in a manner similar to that under which game and fishing laws are administered under the game and fishing laws precluding the necessity, we hope, of presenting a special legislative program for every move necessary to produce the integrity of Florida waters. ●

JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

HERE IT IS AGAIN, almost time for Christmas and the New Year. With the coming of 1959, we must again select our Junior Conservationist of the Year, the Outstanding Junior Conservation Club of the Year, and the Outstanding Senior Advisor. So this is a reminder to you clubs that it is time to send in all back Secretary's Club Reports. From these reports, this office selects the most outstanding club each year.

We believe that each of you are familiar with the procedure used in selecting the Junior Conservationist. At the beginning of the New Year, each club advisor in the state is sent a nomination form. It is his responsibility to nominate the member of his club who has earned the largest number of points during the year—January 1, 1958-December 31, 1958. After all nominations have been received by the Supervisor of Youth Conservation Education, 205 West Adams, Ocala, the boy or girl who has earned the most points is selected as Junior Conservationist. So you club advisors might begin adding up points so that you will have some idea which of your club members has been the most outstanding.

Speaking of points brings to mind the Merit Point System. At the Seventh Annual Conference, several revisions were made to the Merit Point System, making it necessary to re-print the entire five series. These series have been compiled into one booklet with a total of 122 projects and are ready for distribution at this time. If you haven't received a copy of this newly revised Merit Point System, write to Denver Ste. Claire, 205 West Adams Street, Ocala, requesting a copy.

Around the beginning of the year,

the second in a series of three booklets will be available for distribution. The title of this book is "How to Operate a Youth Conservation Club." The third booklet, "The Youth Conservation Camp and the Youth Conservation Club League" is being compiled.

Also, with the coming of 1959, League dues are once again due. As most of you will remember, our operating year has been changed from July 1-June 30 to January 1-December 31. League dues are \$.25 per person per year. Each member receives a membership card signed by the Junior Conservation Club League's President, Mr. Tommy Christopher of Stuart. The member is also entitled to wear the League insignia on his or her uniform.

The Board of Director's Meeting of the League was held in Ft. Lauderdale on October 25 and 26, 1958, at the Jolly Roger Hotel. Many things were discussed. They included Tag Day; editing and publishing of the League's bulletin, the Conservation Wheel; club libraries; Adult Advisory Board; and the need for more boats at camp. Each club has received a copy of the minutes from this meeting. League officers are: President — Tommy Christo-



"We got record size panfish in THIS lake."

pher, Stuart; Vice President—Ronnie Stokes, Miami; Secretary—Dave Genevive, Ft. Lauderdale; Treasurer — Paul Carter, Miami; Fourth District Director—Sam Higgins, Ft. Lauderdale; and Fifth District Director—Earl DeBary, Ocala.

We have received word that the League's Past President, Mr. John Collins of Stuart, is now serving in the Air Force at the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. John served as League President from July 30, 1957 until June 30, 1958. He is succeeded by Tommy Christopher.

You will be happy to hear that the American Camping Association's Standards Team, which visited us this summer at camp, has approved us for full membership. We attended the ACA Section IV's Annual Meeting at the Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg during November and got many new ideas for our coming camping season.

Four more Boy Scouts have attained the rank of Ranger in the Scouting for Conservation Program. These four boys, Foster Barnes, Jim Wallace, Gary King, and Andy Seawright, are all from St. Petersburg. This gives a total of nine Boy Scouts who have attained this rank.

Certificates and pins to be used in our 4-H Conservation Awards Program are now ready for distribution around the state. There are three awards in this program — Primary Conservation Award on County Level, Advanced Conservation Award on County Level, and Florida Wildlife Conservation Award on State Level.

Let's take a look at various club activities around the state.

Allapattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club of Miami — We understand from Lloyd Johnson, Club Secretary, that they are planning to organize a rifle team within their club. Paul Carter, Treasurer of the League, serves as President for this organization. Mr. Herb Mayhew is their advisor.

Deane Mather Junior Wildlife Club of Ocala — This club has just initiated a new program. Each month they elect a "Member of the Month."

This title and a trophy cup were presented to Frank Mustin for the month of September. This club is sponsored by the Ocala Recreation Department. Their advisors are Mr. Billy C. Hankins and Mr. Al Harrison.

Junior Everglades Conservation Squadron of Hialeah—We are happy to announce that this organization, which has been without adult leadership for so long, now has as their advisor, Mr. Howard McBride. He has set up an Adult Advisory Committee of five very interested men. They hold their meetings in the City Hall.

Palatka Junior Wildlife Club — During the summer this club did not function; however, now that school has started, they have been re-organized. As most of you may

remember the Palatka Club is organized within the school. Mr. Eubanks, Agriculture Teacher, is their sponsor.

Shady Grove Junior Wildlife Club — This club has also been re-organized since school has started. They have 21 members on roll. Their officers are: President—Joe Steen; Vice President—Hank Bailey; Secretary — Leo Holden; Treasurer — Bobby Blanton; and Reporter — Dennett Lewis, Jr.

St. Johns Junior Conservation Club of St. Augustine — At a recent meeting Chole Zummerle was elected to fill the office of Vice President as Bob Post has moved away. Sandra Hubbard now serves as Corresponding Secretary rather than Reporter. Diane Sanchez is the reporter.

Stuart Junior Conservation Club — This club has been very active all through the year. They have just had their second annual fish fry. Almost \$200 worth of tickets were sold. Prizes were given as follows: First Prize to Ralph Dramer — gas stove; Second Prize to John Taylor—mosquito net; Third Prize to E. Gifford —Camp cot; and Fourth Prize to Richard Wallish—compass. We understand that the fish fry was very successful. The Stuart Jaycees, sponsor for this organization, recently presented the junior club with a gavel.

Be conservation-minded at all times. Think, act, and talk Conservation at home, on the streets, and in public places. Be aware of the great need for Conservation and help others to understand this need. ●

SAVANNA WORKSHOP

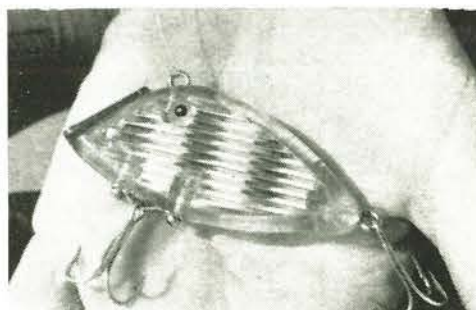
(Continued from Page 27)

supposed to test the Texas lures on trolling. This I faithfully performed. I rigged up two rods and bravely set about rowing the boat up and down one of the bigger lakes, while my wife held one rod and watched the other.

On the first trip, a small bass took hold, and we released him. I continued to row (this is fishing?). We caught and released three or four more bass. The mild exercise was all that kept me awake. Back and forth we went, catching fish with almost machine-like regularity.

My wife, who was handling the rods, seemed to be enjoying herself, but I suddenly remembered a lot of pressing chores at home. Accordingly, I turned the boat toward the narrow pass leading thru the swamp to our boat dock. On the way across the lake, we trolled past a point of land that had produced several good strikes for us before.

I was just going to suggest taking in the lines when my wife hooked a fish. I dropped the oars and picked up the second rod while Helen played her bass. As I reeled in slowly, the lure suddenly challenged by best efforts to move it—not a strike but



This is the new lure. With built in vibration, the color bars race back and forth wildly, on a steady retrieve.

a solid resistance. Then the resistance moved, taking the lure with it. It felt like being hooked to a massive weight, moving slowly and irresistibly away from me.

When I saw I could do nothing else, I put on more pressure and finally popped the knot at the lure. If it was a bass that took that Texas lure, it was a dandy and no mistake about that.

My final report on the Texas lure went like this:

"I think this is the most sensational new development in artificial lures I have seen in many years. It will catch fishermen like mad and will work equally as well on fish. It seems to perform admirably either casting or trolling." ●

FISHING

(Continued from Page 9)

didn't wander off, and, as we were the only damn fools crazy enough to be out in such cold weather, we weren't bothered by visiting anglers. We did a normal, six months' field testing in a three-day period. Of course, we also had a ball, that was climaxed by Gerry catching a 36-lb. snook to wind up the most fabulous three days' fishing imaginable in the coldest weather I have ever seen in Florida.

So what price experience? The only reason we enjoyed this wonderful fishing was because Gerry Brooks doesn't know enough about Florida fishing to know when to stay home, and because I, as host, went along with him against my better judgment—some judgment.

So let's all hope Santa doesn't bring cold weather this year. I wish you all a Merry, Happy, Prosperous, Warm, and Green Holiday Season; but if the cold breath of winter follows the Snow Birds south again this winter, break out the woollens and hunt a warm, sheltered spot on your favorite lake or stream. You may be in for a Christmas Present Extraordinary and the surprise of your life. ●

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS



From personal association with a large number of active hunters, FWFT&T has good reason to believe that few hunters give serious thought to the possibility of encountering drenching rains while hunting. Seemingly, they anticipate only the hunting that lies ahead; if it happens to rain on days of planned hunting, they either stay in camp, or get drenched and head for camp as soon as possible — usually thoroughly wet, chilled and uncomfortable.

Last hunting season one of the editors of FWFT&T was a member of a six-man deer hunting party that took separate, deep wood stands long before daylight. With the coming of dawn, already water-loaded skies opened and poured tons of rain on the earth. All members of the party, except one, stumbled back to the parked car soaking wet, teeth chattering from the cold and in imminent danger of catching cold or one of the many forms of pneumonia.

The single exception was the FWFT&T editor. He had a lightweight, waterproof parka tucked in a pocket of his hunting coat. When the rain started to fall in big drops he hurriedly slipped into the protective covering. Although his hunting pants were completely soaked, the upper half of his body was completely protected. He alone returned to the parked car reasonably warm and comfortable.

In addition to keeping dry while hunting, there are the factors of game movement and personal safety to consider. Like you, most game will seek available shelter when hard rains come, but as soon as skies clear interrupted movement is likely to be resumed. If you are there, waiting dry and comfortable, to detect that movement you may get unexpected good shooting. Also, visibility is greatly reduced during a rain and it is then easy for your own movements to be mistaken by another hunter for those of game. In addition to waterproof qualities in a wet weather garment, you need bright color for personal safety.

Ideal protection against wet weather and the danger of being accidentally shot is the

leatherweight rubberized nylon, hooded style scarlet red parka sold by L. L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine, for \$7.35, postpaid.

Made in hooded pullover style, the garment features zipper closing at neck backed by a rainproof gusset, drawstring at waist and a drawstring around the hood. Thirty inches long in body, the protective jacket has underarm air vents to prevent inside condensation of body-warmed air.

Comes in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes. When measuring for your correct size, keep in mind that the garment is intended to be worn over regular hunting clothing.

Matching pants of the same scarlet red rainproof material can be had for \$6.35, postpaid, or you can order the complete two-piece outfit at one time for \$13.00, postpaid.



Just as some mechanics seemingly have a talent for knowing how to adjust a combustible-type engine for peak performance, so, too, do those rare craftsmen who can hand-make a target or hunting bow so that it will give smooth, uniform and accurate performance over a period of long life.

Such a master craftsman is bowmaker Jack Howard, head of Howard Enterprises, 415 W. Loma Alta Dr., Altadena, California.

Howard, who also designed the very popular Howard Hunting Quiver, specializes in

creating working recurve bows of proven power and accuracy. When the California craftsman, who is an enthusiastic bowhunter, makes you a bow, you will possess target or hunting equipment that can be depended upon to give you top-notch performance, consistent with your own shooting skill.

Recently, while hunting the Crocker Mountain area of Plumas County (California), Howard bagged a beautifully antlered four-point buck with a single shot through the heart from one of his custom-made bows, **over a distance of 100 yards.** The feat was witnessed by the Game Warden supervising the hunting area, and a photo of the kill was made on the spot.

Howard's recent deer kill was not a "fluke" shot. Jack Howard's hand-made bows have also given outstanding performance in others' hands, and arrows fired over a 70-yard range from a Howard hunting bow clamped in a machine-rest adjusted for proper elevation have scored remarkably tight groups—far closer grouping than a bowman can equal offhand. Howard not only machine-rest tests the inherent accuracy of each bow he firm sells, but painstakingly personally checks on the field performance of each bow produced, before shipment.

The California bowmaker's secret of getting almost phenomenal accuracy from his hand-made bows probably stems from the fact that he utilizes a bow design that incorporates extra sharp, working recurves.

The advantages of this design are dual: (1) The bowstring tends to naturally and gently roll on to the recurves, thus silencing the bowstring and eliminating its usual sharp slap; and (2) the sharp-type recurve bow ends impart smoothness and stability when drawing a long-length bow, while still possessing the speed of a shorter bow. At full draw, the bowstring on a Howard custom-bow is completely off the recurves, yet, when released, immediately lies on the recurved ends, giving the shooter the light recoil that is a characteristic of a short bow.

Bowhunters seeking maximum speed or cast in a bow will find that they can drop as much as 10 pounds in bow weight (pull at full draw) and still enjoy the same cast that a heavier bow weight would normally give.

If your skill is rapidly approaching the limit of performance that can be expected of your present equipment, or if you just want to start out with top-notch archery tackle, it will be well worth while to have Jack Howard make you a laminated, center-shot bow, FWFT&T feels.



"Oh, nothing much — Ed just got back from his hunting trip."

More than two million dollars invested in

FLORIDA HUNTING and FISHING LICENSES

FLORIDA'S RESIDENT and non-resident fishermen spent a total of \$979,127.25 to purchase 480,201 fresh-water fishing licenses during the fiscal year 1957-58.

Of this sum, the State Game Fund, from which the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission derives all its revenue, received a total of \$856,667, with the remainder being retained as County Judges' fees.

Florida's 152,793 resident and non-resident hunters spent \$1,021,037.50 during the fiscal year 1957-58 to purchase the necessary Federal and State hunting licenses, permits and stamps.

Of this amount, \$859,402.50 was paid into the State Game Fund. The remaining monies were retained as County Judges' fees for sales of licenses, or paid to the Federal government for share-profit permits, ducks stamps, or military reservation hunting.

In total, Florida's fishermen and hunters invested \$2,000,157.75 for fishing and hunting licenses, permits and stamps.

Both Federal and state governmental agencies concerned are required by law to devote the money from fishermen and hunters to managing, restoring, conserving and regulating the wildlife and fish. ●

HOG WILD

(Continued from Page 13)

dozens of silver trophies that were won by Jane, the eldest daughter who is now married. And he speaks proudly of a "trunkful" of ribbons in the attic. Because she rode in both English saddle and cow pony competitions, Jane has probably won more awards than any other female rider in the South. And Sara, 18, is rapidly following in her sister's footsteps.

As this is being written a huge wild boar — by far the largest these hunters have ever heard of, and they've captured them well over 400 pounds — roams the remote Florida swamps and acorn ridges near Silver



Joe Clements with handmade tin funnels which amplify distant sounds, permit hunters to follow direction of the chase.

Springs. While Clardy has yet to catch a glimpse of this massive beast, his men have pointed out its tremendous tracks on several occasions. Once they even chased it briefly. Result: one of the leopard cow dogs had to have 27 stitches taken in its ripped body to save its life.

This will undoubtedly prove the most dangerous boar the intrepid little band has ever taken on, and Clardy's hunting companions grow serious and shake their heads doubtfully whenever they speak of what lies in store for them.

For they know that John Clardy will never rest until this big one of all big ones is brought to earth — bare-handed, as usual. ●

GO EASY ON TOP

(Continued from Page 15)

fishes in the opposite direction from the other. When a bait first settles on the surface, a bass may be mildly interested. It will swim nearer for closer scrutiny. That initial twitch is what is apt to trigger it into action.

While the fish is studying the bait, debating whether to smash it or not, it is easily spooked. Another bait cast in that general vicinity often scares it back into hiding.

Hold your rod tip parallel to the water to work the bait. When ang-

ling it at a ten o'clock position the line bows, preventing the lure from coming to a complete halt between jerks. And by working it from this side-arm position, you are prepared to strike the bass instantly once it makes its move.

How an angler reacts during that split-second when a bass comes thrashing upward to engulf the bait often tells the true story. Spontaneous action is required if the bass is to be hooked. A striking bass propellers toward the surface at a fantastic speed, and often it will catapult clear of the water as it strikes the lure.

You've undoubtedly watched a jumping bass. Notice how its head gyrates back and forth wildly. Unless the hooks are set home firmly, the bait will be tossed free.

Although an angler probably will catch more bass on underwater artificials, those taken on the surface generally will be of larger average size. Parlay this fact with the joy of taking a bronco bundle of moss-back fury on a top-water bait and one can readily see the glamour and fascination of the sport. As Ken says, it is ten times more fun to take one bass off the top than ten underneath. ●

QUESTION BOX

By **CHUCK SCHILLING**

Address questions on fishing and boating to Question Box, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Tallahassee, Fla.

QUESTION: I have recently purchased a 7-foot, medium-action, spinning rod. The first guide has an inside diameter of one inch. I've been told a first guide with an inside diameter of $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches would be preferable. Should I make the change?

D. Parker, Tampa, Fla.

ANSWER: Only if it will make you happier. An oversized, gathering guide will do nothing for your rod except overload it with hardware. Open-faced, spinning reels produce an extremely sloppy line flow that is usually made worse by wind and casting motion. There will always be a considerable amount of line slap and friction at the first guide regardless of how big it is.

To get best performance from your rod, standardize your line and lure weight as much as possible, then try for the best placement of that first guide. Chalk your rod shaft and determine where you get the least amount of line slap and friction, by moving the guide to various positions as you cast, using tape to hold the guide in these temporary spots. In most cases, best position will be very near the original placement, if your rod carries the trade-mark of a national brand, if you are using average line and lures, and if you are casting properly.

QUESTION: Some time back, you recommended a plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid as a boating accessory. I found plenty of buckets but none with a lid such as you describe. Where do I get it?

J. Deeds, Orlando, Fla.

ANSWER: My buckets are diaper pails, and they have tight-fitting lids for obvious reasons. Suggest you try the diaper pail department at some big store. I use mine not only for bailing but, also, to hold my lunch.

It fits inside my icebox and keeps the lunch dry and unaffected by old, fish odors.

QUESTION: Are there any better level-wind pawls available than the ones I have been buying? The ones I am using wear out almost as quickly as I can put them in my reel.

B. Morehouse, Daytona Beach, Fla.

ANSWER: Pawls are supposed to wear out — that's the whole idea. Your problem is probably lack of oil, but it could be a scored, level-wind, carriage screw. Your level-wind mechanism should be kept clean and lightly oiled, renewing the oil after every couple hours of regular use. A regular pawl, so used, should last at least a full season.

QUESTION: I have invented a new lure that catches fish like mad. What is the best way for me to market my brain child?

B. Metcalf, Atlanta, Ga.

ANSWER: The best way, in my opinion, is to contact the Development Departments of the major fishing tackle manufacturing companies. The big companies are always on the lookout for new products, and most will enter into a royalty agreement with the inventor of a really new and desirable lure.

Remember, almost nothing is really new in the artificial lure business. Almost all lures will catch fish, but will they catch fishermen? Will your lure appeal to a mass market? Does its design make it adaptable to mass production methods? These are all important considerations. Best of luck.

QUESTION: I am going to Miami for a vacation this winter. Where can I get information about fishing down there?

F. Moon, Detroit, Mich.

ANSWER: Send 35¢ in coin to the

MIAMI HERALD, Miami, Fla. Ask for the 1958 MIAMI HERALD FISHING GUIDE.

QUESTION: A friend puts great store in a system that predicts the best time of day for fishing, depending on the position of the moon. I've read that this is all the bunk. What do you say?

C. Bidwell, Mobile, Ala.

ANSWER: I've written several articles attesting to my belief in the John Alden Knight solunar theory, which "predicts the best time of the day." It works beautifully for me. I say that using this solunar theory adds a bit of fun to sports angling. From that standpoint, alone, it certainly is not "all bunk."

QUESTION: I think Florida should have a closed season and a size limit on black bass. Why don't you write the truth about this?

E. Markhoff, Marianna, Fla.

ANSWER: I suspect the only "truth" you would accept would be agreement with your views. The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has a full staff of highly trained and widely respected fishery biologists, who all agree that closed seasons and length limits on bass would not only do no good in Florida but would be harmful. The finest fish management authorities in the nation agree. I think it's time we all quit worrying this bone.

QUESTION: You are always making slighting remarks about worm fishermen, and it burns me up. I've fished on Michigan trout streams for years and have always used worms. For your information, it takes just as much skill to fish with a worm as it does to use a fly. Why don't you stick to writing about something you know about?

F. Goodall, Kalamazoo, Mich.

ANSWER: That's a comforting theory if you can buy it. I can't. My occasional small gibe at the garden hackle clan is all in good, clean fun. Come on now, where's your sense of humor?

FLORIDA GEESE

CANADA GOOSE

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 8 or 9 LBS.
BILL, HEAD and FEET: BLACK
WHITE CHEEK PATCH



THIS IS THE COMMON GOOSE OF FLORIDA - MOST ABUNDANT IN THE NORTHWEST PART OF THE STATE - SMALL NUMBERS MAY WANDER SOUTH TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE - EACH YEAR UP TO 15,000 CANADA GEESE SPEND THE WINTER IN AND AROUND THE ST. MARKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NEAR TALLAHASSEE

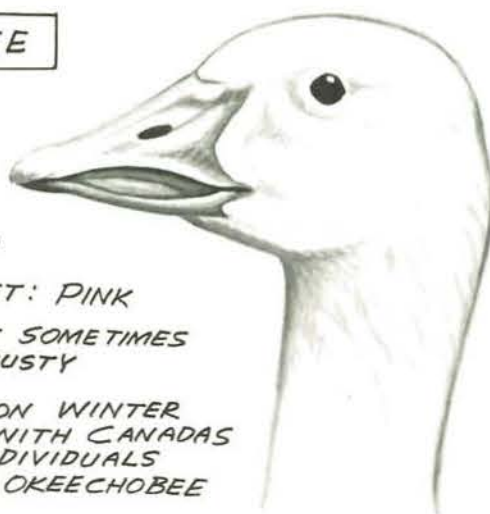
SNOW GOOSE

AVERAGE WEIGHT -
5 or 6 LBS.

ALL WHITE
WITH BLACK
WING TIPS

BILL and FEET: PINK

HEAD and BREAST SOMETIMES
STAINED WITH RUSTY



THE SNOW GOOSE IS AN UNCOMMON WINTER VISITOR IN FLORIDA - LOOK FOR IT WITH CANADAS IN THE NORTHWEST AREA - SOME INDIVIDUALS MAY WANDER DOWNSTATE TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE

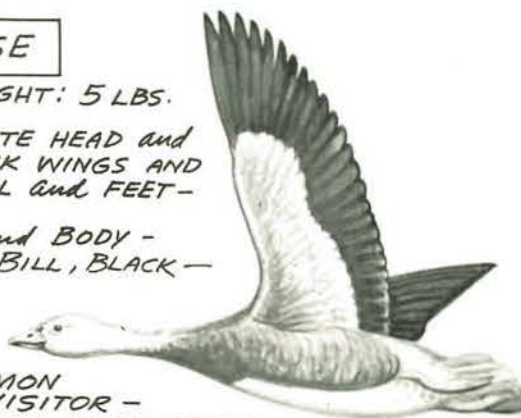
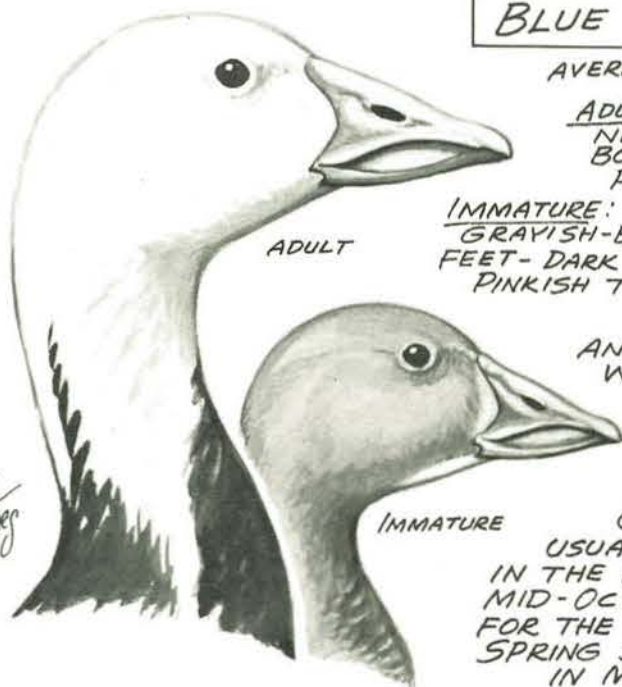
BLUE GOOSE

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 5 LBS.

ADULT: WHITE HEAD and
NECK - DARK WINGS AND
BODY - BILL and FEET -
PINK

IMMATURE: HEAD and BODY -
GRAYISH-BROWN - BILL, BLACK -
FEET - DARK WITH
PINKISH TONE

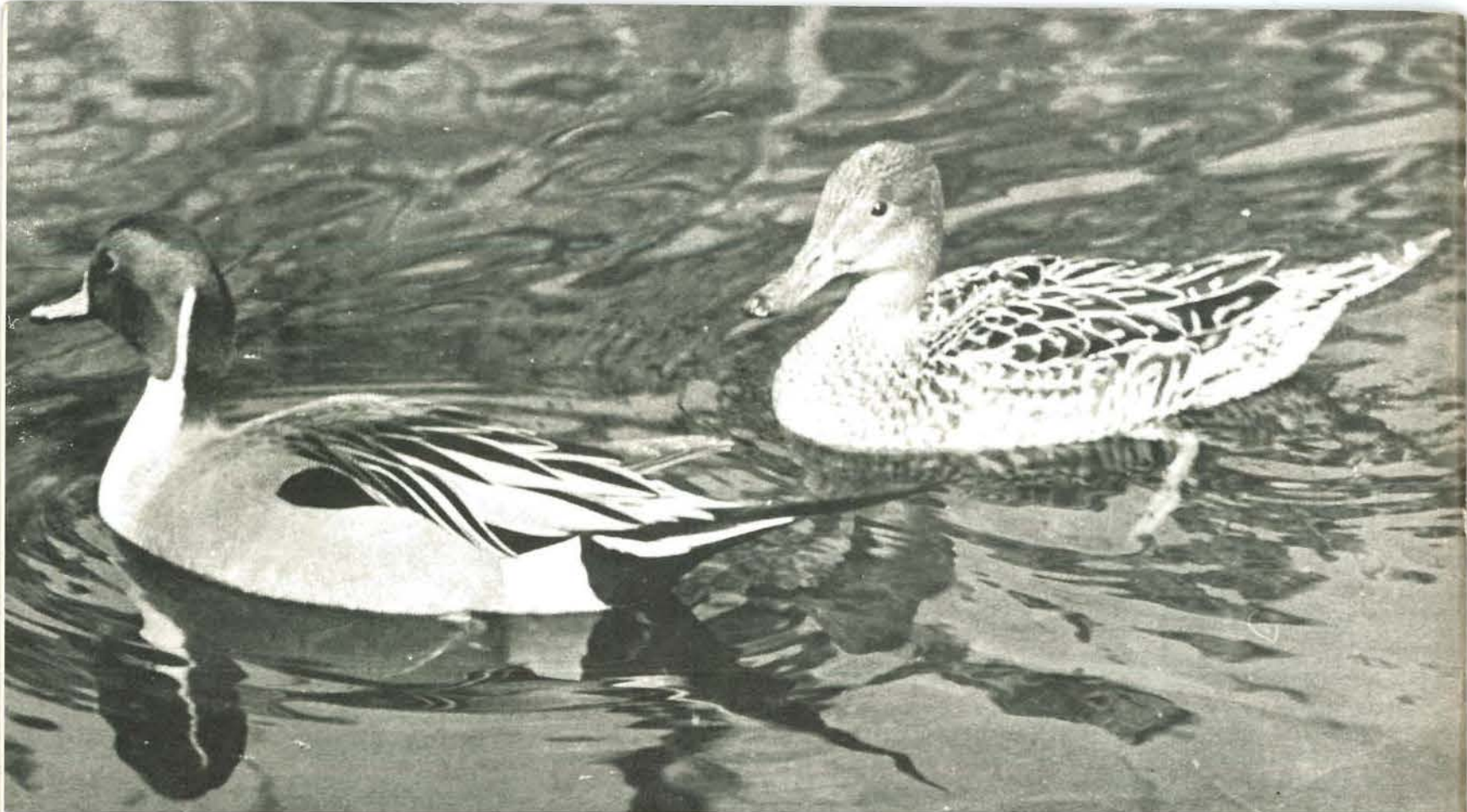
AN UNCOMMON
WINTER VISITOR -
LOOK FOR IT IN COMPANY
WITH CANADAS and SNOWS



GEESE
USUALLY ARRIVE
IN THE FALL ABOUT
MID-OCTOBER - LEAVE
FOR THE NORTH IN
SPRING SOMETIME
IN MARCH

FLORIDA
WILDLIFE'S
SCRAPBOOK

Wallace
Fraser



Game Commission Photo by Wallace Hughes

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